No. sans

PUNCH. MAY 28 188

Viscous DEXIXIII



SUMMER NUMBER



The pure of wheels as the bors d'ameres glide by ... and the discreet squeak of a cork yielding its treasure of fine wine. The bubbling of soft laughter from a distant table ... and the echoing tinkle from the crystal drops of the candelabrum. Two half-remembered bars of magic from the ballet's pas de deuxe ... the blessed knowledge that there's no further need to burry on ... And for perfection, one thing more—

NUMBER SEVEN



"I think I'd like a White Horse better than anything"





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FOR ALL MEN AND MOST OCCASIONS

LOTUS LTD., STAFFORD



and down the country that would make a better first impression and a lasting good impression if its furniture were by Pol.

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Most widely renowned of their specialised products is the fine Swiss jewelled-lever watch. In these watches three centuries of traditional skill, and the most modern and scientific production methods, are combined with infinite care.

This care can all be wasted if your watch comes to you through careless or greedy hands. To be sure of getting the best of Switzerland, go to a qualified jeweller. A specialised product needs a specialised retailer, and your jeweller is the specialist in watches.

Only he can explain to you which are the good Swiss watches.

Only he can bring them to you through skilful, careful hands.

Only he can give your watch expert service in the future.

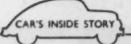
The Swiss watch craftsman is proud of his work. If you choose a good Swiss jewelled-lever watch, and choose it at your jeweller's, you will share his pride.

Your jeweller's knowledge is your safeguard

The WATCHMAKERS



OF SWITZERLAND



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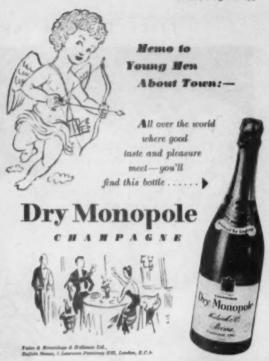


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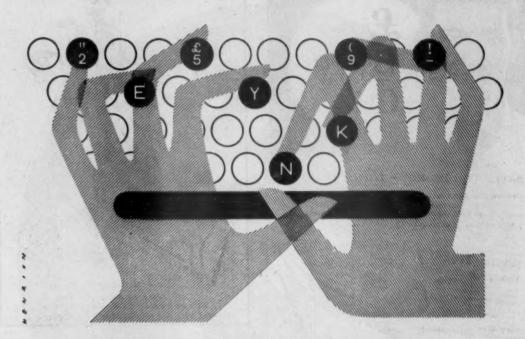
one day-it has to be YOURS!

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Whether you are scaling the Langdales or on more usual occasions at ground level, you will feel at home in a 'Viyella' shirt. It is admirably tailored in exclusive checks or herringbone weaves, in the convenient coat style.

The cut of the collar is such that you can be your formal or informal self according to taste.

And 'Viyella' shirts serve you faithfully for years, always preserving their fine, luxurious texture.

We shall be happy to supply a selection of patterns (and if necessary the name of your nearest shop) on request to Dept. P7/S, Viyella House, Nottingham.

# There's nothing to equal Viyella

IF IT SHRINKS WE REPLACE



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# Better by a long stretch!

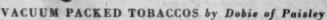


No matter which comes first—your palate or your pocket—Four Square will please you most. No tobacco gives a pipe-lover so much pleasure, and a thrifty man so much economy. Vacuum packed, fresh from the blender's table, Four Square is good to the last pipeful, burns cool and sweet to the last shred, leaving no wasteful dottle. Get an ounce of your favourite blend and see for yourself: only when you've tried tobacco as Four Square make it—whether a straight virginia, a mixture, a curly cut or navy cut—will you know how much real pleasure your pipe can give you!



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MIXTURES
Original Mixture (Blue) 4/5¼d on
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CUT CAKE (Yellow) 4/¼d on
RIFE BROWN NAVY CUT (Brown) 4/¼d on
CURLIES out in discs (Purple) 4/1¼d on







This'll revive you

says OLD HETHERS

Feeling a bit warm, Sir? Sit you down and I'll mix you a nice long glass of Robinson's Barley Water. Nothing like it to shift a stubborn thirst. It's got that little extra something-it's made with Robinson's 'patent' Barley. Which do you prefer, Sir, the Orange or Lemon kind?

Robinson's

Lemon or Orange

BARLEY WATER



Ah! Erring wife's appeal to long suffering husband! Jury in tears! What's up dear? Bought another ridiculous hat?

Don't be silly. No . . . I've rained

Come woman. This is no time for idle jest . . .

It's no joke George . . . there's no Marmite left to make the gravy. What! Gravy without Marmite! You might as well brew beer without hops. How did we come to run out?

lt's your fault really. Since you told young Peter that Marmite is made from yeast and that yeast provides the B, Vitamins he's had the jar on the table at almost every meal.

Good boy! He'll go a long way. But let him take a short run down to the grocers to-morrow -- for another jar of Marmite.



¶ Concentrated extract of years, flavoured with vegetables and spices—that's Marmiss. Use it in soups and gravy; spread it on toust, add it as an extra to sandwiches or mix a spoonful with hot milk as a bed-time drink. Tastes good all ways—does you good anyay—that's

1 or. 96. 2 or. 1/4. 4 or. 2/4. 8 or. 4/-, 16 or. 7/-

HARVEST & HEALTH in Barby Water



FOR countless thousands of men and women the world over, delicious 'Ovaltine' is the regular 'good-night' beverage. Its warm, soothing nourishment helps to impart that feeling of relaxation and composure which is the prelude to natural, restful sleep of the best kind.

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Remember... 'Ovaltine' differs from other food beverages. That is why 'Ovaltine' results are obtained only with 'Ovaltine'.

Prices in Gt. Britain and N. Ireland, 1/6, 2/6 and 4/6

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Bed-time Beverage

### How many women

know . . . that Hovis contains the heart of the wheat? This is the vital reason why



HOVIS gives you
THE HEART OF THE WHEAT



Flying Holidays

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FOR !

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Preservation-without refrigeration

does require

> electricity, gas, chemicals or ice

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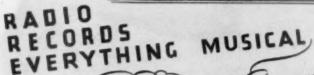


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And, for the owner who on occasions prefers to drive himself,
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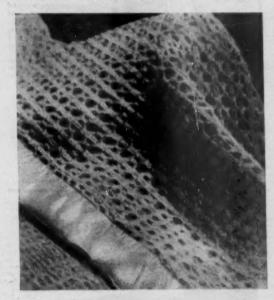
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And quench all Fires
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He that useth much Oile in the way of Busines and hath not Mulfifyre is an ill husband of Property. A new-kindled Fire subsides sprinkled with a liste Water Bath Ovidus Nado Flamma recens parva sparia resolution. Which things, though not before thought of with Oile, yet it is achieved by Mulfistyre. Rombarding the burning Oile with Water through an ingenious device it engenders an Emulsion which will not burn.

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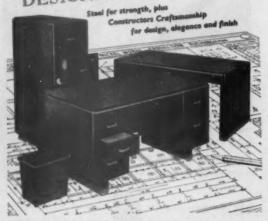
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This suite, characterized by the pleasing symmetry of its lines, is designed for the use of those who look for distinction in their equipment—and are in a position to demand it. Parts supplied separately if desired. Please write for catalogue P.760 for full description.

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Since homesty is the best policy

Accies & Pollock hume decided to come clean

through the letter box

at Oldbury the other day came a shout for help from a towel manufacturer it seems some people in hotels take things for too easily just

as they find them there and then the proprietor finds himself short and longs

towels and pummels the poor manufacturer who turns to Accles & Pollock for new type stainless steel tubular needles to sew the whole thing up

good and proper in

for a better method of making his mark on his best guests

letters big and bold

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— from that day to this, I have never been able to accustom myself to any other tobacco

"I first came across your Tobacco about a year ago, when I was travelling . . . . I had run short of my then favourite brand, which shall be nameless, and, on enquiring in the sweking room har was told that there was none to be had . . . . Looking through their supply of tobaccos, I chose a tin of Barneys, and from that day to this, I have never been able to accustom mysolf to any other tobacco."

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the Ideal Tobacco

All original letters can be inspected at, and further enquiries addressed to, The Barneys Sales Bureau, 24 Holborn, London, E.C.1.

In your quest for a tobacco of abiding joy, you are saked to give trial to Barneys—which has won so many friends from the commendations of older smokers. Smokers abroad can arrange for personal dispatches, En-bond and British Duty-free, in 2lb. parcels, to many lands, but not, as yet, to all.

(26) Punchkowie (/nf/), Barneys (molium), and Parsons Pleasure (mild), 4/5 the on, each

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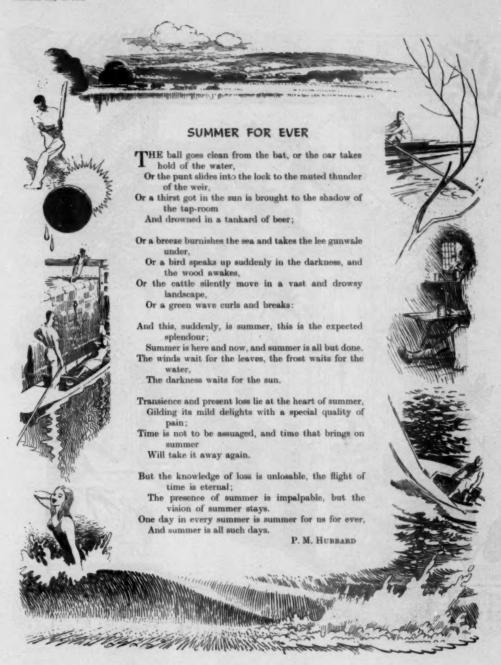
KNIGHTSBRIDGE SWI

# SUMMER NUMBER 1952



"Look-there's someone in it!!!!"







"Of course you should really see it when the flowers aren't out."

#### MY WIFE AND HARD TIMES

"LISTEN!" said my popsie, after a silence. "What do you think of the contemporary scene!"

My mouth fell open and I stood there like a mechanical shovel. "Ballet, theatre or Canasta?" I asked cautiously.

"You've been lecturing me for ages about the things you understand," said my popsie. "It says in this magazine that I should, like my husband, take an interest in the contemporary scene. I never see you reading a newspaper, and it occurs to me that you know nothing about the contemporary scene. If this is true it will be a comfort to me."

"In a word," I said, beginning calmly, "the contemporary scene can be described as metempirical. From a distance it can be quite attractive, like a blizzard or an elephant. It is when one becomes involved in the contemporary scene that the racket begins. One is likely to find oneself carrying heavy. secret parcels around the foothills of Baluchistan or being questioned under blinding lights by portly gentlemen. But even from a distance it can incite pandemonium. television-fixation and a determination to read every available Government publication.'

"It doesn't say anything like that here," said my popsie.
"Tell me about the contemporary scene."

"I will do what I can," I said, "although I have not the same statistical interest in the matter as has Mr. J. Gunther. I last looked at a newspaper in mid-1950, and at that time it seemed to me that the Allies would probably send for me again to straighten out several situations for them, travel and expenses paid. There was then an acute shortage of bacon, good behaviour and Uranium 235. Later some uranium was found in Wales, some good behaviour was said to exist in Scotland, and a pig was seen travelling, third class, near Killarney. Two hundred novelists and generals had just written books

about the terrors of war and women in Europe. Although flatly contradicting each other, all of them were pronounced significant. A man was so agitated by the political situation that he worked two hours At once forty-eight thousand people staved on strike until the man went to America. A letter posted in Swineshead in 1904 was finally delivered in Boston, England. There was no civil answer to it. A train arrived in Newcastle. on-Type at the advertised time. Apologizing for the incident, the driver said that he had confused British Summer with Greenwich Mean Time. Nobody, except one man, was satisfied with anything. He conferred to a psychologist that he was suffering from the extraordinary habit of being fond of his wife and children. He is still under observation. Several people still had the outrageous nerve to be happy. In fact, one wrote some articles for a newspaper about the secret of happiness. (It is porridge.) At the time it occurred to me that the secret of happiness must be to try children's newspapers, but when I read one I developed palpitations of the heart."

"It doesn't say anything about that either," said my popsie. "You're just picking out the exceptional problems. I am concerned with the day-to-day scene. Listen to these questions and see if you are, so to speak, contemporaneous. If you are young and frail, or, for that matter, old and irritable, how do you cope with the need for obtaining the necessities of life, namely, the groceries?"

"What you really mean," I said, "is how would you avoid queues. The question is easily answered. You drift vaguely into the grocery shop with a falling-in-love-again look on your face. If you are questioned by the irate queuesuch is the state of national courtesy that you may not be-you allow your vision to focus slowly so that in about twelve seconds you become aware of the queue. You then address the queue very gently: 'Has anyone seen a small white Pekinese? White with two divine brown patches.' Nobody will answer, or answer relevantly, and you can drift tactfully out of the shop, calling 'Eustace! Eustace! Darling, where are you?""

"Hopelessly wrong," said my





popsie. "You spend several dreary days at the Food Office arranging priorities, or, if rich, live in an hotel, Next question: If you are a penniless housewife, quietly starving to death on cods' roes and macaroni. how can you arrange for a nice hot lunch each day?"

"You take nerve tablets for a while," I said. "Then you walk very confidently into a restaurant and may 'Is the manager in?' When this person appears you say 'I am from the Ministry of Food,' or, if someone is frying chips, 'I am from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.' This should ensure a good free lunch, how good and how free depending upon how badly you have frightened him. Alternatively you may say 'I'm Rebecca Crankshaft and I'm hoping to recommend your cuinine in The Onlooker."

"Those are good ideas," said my popaie, "but they're criminal. Furthermore," she added, with feminine practicality, "there are only seven hundred restaurants in this city, and after two years you would have had it."

"Personally," I said, "I shall be more than satisfied if this city is still contemporaneous in two years. Are there any difficult questions!"

"Yes," said my popsie. "You are at the theatre with your husband and the works party, and you wish to ensure his promotion. What do you say and to whom do you say it ?"

"Among the cognoscenti," I said. "it is a recognized form of arrival to come in very late and say loudly 'Darling, how perfectly sweet: they've translated it into English.' This will go down very well, especially if the play is by J. B. Priestley, and it may be the only bright moment in a very exhausting evening."

"You underestimate people," said my popsie. "According to this magazine a gentle squeeze of the hand and a whisper of 'One thing about Sartre: he's willing to make a fool of himself,' sets anybody at ease and proves the presence of culture. Now, about behaviour on

"I've made a study of that," I said. "It depends upon whether you're sitting on the inside or outside position of the seat. If you are by the window you must slope from the window downwards. This ensures utter discomfort for the other passenger. If you are the other passenger you have to bide your time, sitting on the left-hand side of the bus. Sooner or later the other passenger will, unless he's left-handed, put his right hand into his pocket for the fare or start to wrap The Times round his neck. This is your moment, and you jab your left elbow well back so that his right arm cannot be returned to its position of comfort. This does not mean that you are comfortable, but makes sure that he isn't. If you have to stand, the old dodge of fainting, groping or sudden illness usually undermines the goodwill of some schoolboy who has not yet been to college . . . A problem which has always interested me is: how do you get seventy passengers into a bus meant for fifty, and having done this, how do you circulate a forty-eight-hip conductress among these passengers?"

"I don't know," said my popsie, "and I don't think it's your problem anyway. You're not doing very well at this quiz. In fact, it seems clear that you should be in a prison or a zoo."

"You worry too much," I said. "You should leave the contemporary scene to those who understand it. That's what I do."



#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH BRITISH SPORT?





Olympic runners-









starts-







A lawyer of the











starts-



















that it's the ..... after and of the rare that's the difficult parts.

#### NON-ART FOR THE MILLION

or How to Make the Most of Your Lack of Talent

#### BLACK FOR BEGINNERS

I BELIEVE I can help you to make quite a cosy little income from drawing without your having to be able to draw. The kind of drawing I have in mind is the black-and-white kind that goes over, contains, or—in poor Aunt Carrie's case—conceals, a joke. With an increasing number of contemporary jokes the drawing part is on a non-art basis, e.g. a placard saying "Tor FLOON: IBONNONGERY—HABERDASHERY—ARTIFICIAL LAMBS AND A FREE VIEW INTO THE OVAL." To produce this the draughtsman requires no previous training in anything other than writing, ruling lines and knowing where to go for his jokes.

Non-artists are of course restricted to the kind of joke which goes with the kind of picture they can manage. One picture that every non-artist ought to be able to manage is the All-black Rectangle.

Cut out a rectangular piece of paper somewhat smaller than a postcard and submerge it in a prepared saucer containing Indian ink. Remove it and when dry uncurl it carefully, cover the less successful side with a reliable nucilage and clamp it on to a postcard, leaving a nice bit of border all round but especially at the bottom where your signature should be added, boldly, together with a joke.

Here is how the rectangle should look shortly after being stuck on:



Darkness pictures (except in America, where they have to do with courting and begin with statements like "Yoo-hoo, Mr. Weinberger!") are usually concerned with the inconvenience of not being able to see something rather important as in "Nobody but Basil would think of bringing home a boa-constrictor during a power-cut," or "But I came all this way on the strict understanding that there was always moonlight on the Taj Mahal." Power-cuts have of course been a wonderful boon to non-artists, many of whom had been badly hit by the cessation of the black-out and were having to fall back on ordinary blown fuses.

### WILL YOU HAVE THICK OR CLEAR!

More limited in its range, and therefore less often seen, is the All-grey Rectangle shown here as it might appear in its final form. The "All-grey" can be run up in much the same way as the "All-black," only you want to put water with it:

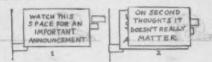
"Yes, Mr. Clatworthy certainly seems to have got the hang of his mecrochaum at last."

Even simpler, and especially recommended for the beginner who is none too confident with ink, is the all-blank picture:

"That looks surprisingly like the air-packet that played us up so on the way home from Alex, Alex."

#### SOME LAUGHABLE LETTERING

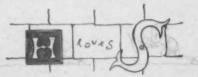
We now pass from featureless pictures to something with a bit more bite to it, the Humorously-worded Notice. This, as I have already indicated, demands only a working knowledge of block letters and the ability to include, for greater realism, an occasional half-brick:



For those who enjoy something a shade more fancy and don't mind if it turns out not to have been worth while after all, there are studies of this nature:



And here is a happily-conceived little composition made up of familiar every-day objects:

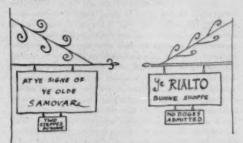


As a useful exercise, stare at this picture for about

thirty seconds, then cover it up and see if you can do it yourself. Not so easy, eh? That hydrant sign of

yours looks like twisted wreckage.

Jokes ranging from quiet fun to high comedy at the expense of shops, restaurants and inns can be achieved easily enough by means of the Humorous Hanging Sign, which surmounts the well-known difficulty of having to draw architecture from in front. Designs like those that follow can be used ad infinitum, but don't get so wrapped up in your wroughtirn work that you forget to vary the joke a little each time.

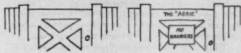


(The squirls shown here belong more properly to semi-art and are not really necessary.)

Genuine artists, often borrowing freely from old holiday sketches, will include any amount of halftimbering, dog-tooth moulding and fancy perspective with their Hanging Signs, but while they are at it you can be dashing off dozens of non-art versions provoking every bit as much mirth.

#### THE SANS SOUCH SCHOOL

In the same category is that ever green provider of innocuous merriment, the Suburban Gate. Here is



a brief non-art fragment suitable for immediate use, and, on the right, an example of the gate in action.

#### FAT WASPS AND FAR-AWAY SEAGULLS

For those who are not at their best with block letters or find straight lines on the soulless side there are several more animate objects which can be adapted to non-artistic treatment. A theme popular at the moment is that of two animals or insects, either discovered in the thick of some domestic contretemps or commenting wryly to one another on some glaring evidence of human folly. Non-art wasps which can, I imagine, be traced without much trouble out of reference books and shown on window panes, are especially well suited to quips about horizontal stripes not flattering the stout. Failing wasps, you cannot go far wrong with Greater Black-backed Gulls:



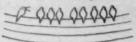
"And tell me, do they require these passport things for coming home, too !

You can always get variety out of Greater Black-backed Gulls by swapping them about, banking them in other directions, or turning them, as here, into Lesser Black-backed Gulls:



"They say that cuckee women is always willing to sit-in for a consideration."

Fortunately, the fact that this kind of picture is rather lacking in something or other lends it a sort of fashionable naiveté. Also possessing a ready appeal are little birds on telegraph wires, provided you can restrain yourself from trying to put in the posts and the little pepper-castors where the wires join on:



"But this is fantastic! Do you mean to say not one of you knows what he's queueing for?"

#### THE GENTLE NON-ABT OF CONCEALMENT

A belief which seems to persist obstinately among untrained non-artists is that human beings can only be introduced into humorous pictures if they are heavily shaded down one side and shown either sipping aperitifs in front of Hepplewhite wall-cabinets or blotting their copy-books out with the Bicester. This is no longer true. Thanks to the pioneer work of earlier non-artists, the mise en scène of many of to-day's best jokes consists of one or more pieces of angular non-art furniture often in process of being obtained through the hire-purchase system. As a first step students who are anxious to compete in this genre are advised to familiarize themselves with the outlines of the non-art armchair. Here is a popular and very serviceable specimen-note also the non-art pipe (smaller than the chair but otherwise very much the same) symbolizing domesticity:



Provided your chair is firmly planted in the foreground of your picture the public will realize in a flash, without your having to supply footnotes or four-storey cake-stands, that the action is taking place in the "loungo." Simply-framed non-art pictures, straightforward non-art standard lamps and opaque non-art waste-paper baskets can always be added to make bigger, better-paid pictures.

Artistic leanings can best be indicated by means of spots on the waste-paper basket and triangles (instead of smudges) in the pictures. Awkward gaps can always be filled in with knotted non-art flex. The only enag about lamps, pictures and waste-paper baskets is that they are very little use for putting in front of parts of people that are difficult to draw. The non-art armchair seen here in the humorous head-on position is ideal for this purpose.



"If you wouldn't mind waiting in here, madam, the Bishop should be back at any moment."

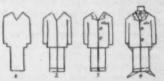
Non-art walls and fences can be utilized in the same manner for outdoor versions of the missing-bishop situation. In the quite meaningless example shown below I have also worked in the standard non-art horizon and two kidney potatoes.



For clarity's sake the top-knots in the above pictures have been drawn larger and with greater elaboration than could ever be attained in practice by the non-artist.

### MASS-PRODUCING THE LITTLE MAN

Students, however, need not remain for longer than they wish in a state of having to keep the greater part of their characters behind barricades. The fully-exposed non-art Little Man, once mastered, is no harder to run off than the non-art standard lamp; which in some ways he so closely resembles. Through the persistence, in particular, of the North Circular Road Group of non-artists the public has long since become resigned to the spectacle of innumerable little men who look as if they had been sawn out of white cardboard. Here in a simple blueprint for arriving by easy stages at the front elevation of one of these:



Figs. 2 and 3 can be used independently for clothes-line and coat-hanger jokes.

#### DOTTING THE EYES

Faces can be made in uncountable ways, but luckily for you it is now generally appreciated that the more often you can use the same, or nearly the same, face the more people will know it next time and the more famous you will become. A reasonably individualistic but perfectly recognizable face can be obtained by using a "C" for the right ear, a backward "C" for the left ear, some more "C"s on their backs for the nose and hair and a clean sixpence for the outline of the face. Better stick to dots for eyes, and, having once chosen where they are to go, resist the temptation to put them in other places however aidesplitting the result may be. A favourite place for the eyes is on a level with the tops of the ears. Ears themselves come about half-way down on the outer perimeter. Until you feel quite capable of launching out on your own face, use the specimen lay-out illustrated here. Most non-art objects automatically become hamorous the moment a joke has been added to them, but it is customary in the case of faces to attempt to make them humorous in their own right. There are several accepted ways of doing this. The scheme here chosen is the Drooping Moustache method, which has the advantage of giving your little man an inscrutable all-purpose expression suitable for practically every situation. The drooping moustache



fits neatly under the nose like a slice of water-melon and dispenses with the need for a mouth.

#### MAIN USES OF THE LITTLE MAN

I hope to deal at a later stage with the question of little men in secondary attitudes (including little men in frilly aprons trapped at the sink), but, until I have done that, non-art students who wish to show sideways or non-upright little men in their pictures must continue to make use of armchairs and stone walls.

Where jokes are concerned only with a specific area of little man, or where they are hardly strong enough to warrant the use of the complete figure, fading out from either end may be resorted to:



"There must have been at least two hundred other copies of the Daily Telegraph' in the kitchen drauer which would have served your purposes equally well,



"Fog is expected to be very localized."

Normally, however, your little man will be shown standing stiffly in the "lounge." Even between one chair, one lamp, one waste-paper basket and one little man the interplay is almost endless. Here, for instance, is one of the many formations you may have failed to take into account:



"Would you mind socing if it says anything in the Encyclopædia about delevilation, dear?"

### LITTLE WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAST

I am well aware that by introducing my non-art little man I am creating a demand for non-art little women and children, and so, with much misgiving, I append a simple pattern from which these may be obtained. The drooping moustache being only intermittently appropriate in this category a common hyphen has been used to represent the mouth.



For those who insist, there is also

It cannot be too strongly emphasized at this point that students are not now qualified to record day by day, through times grave and gay, the endearing adventures of Mum, Dad, Mavis, Percy and "the Menace." Apart from every other consideration there is far too much of that kind of thing about already.

#### SOME DISTINGUISHED LITTLE MEN

When more than one little man, woman or child is required for a joke it may sometimes be necessary to use some simple method of distinguishing between them. With all such methods it is most important that your little person should retain as many as possible of those hall-marks by which the public is able to tell him or her from other people's little people. One of the easiest ouddoor methods is the one often incorrectly referred to as "Allsopp's Hat-Discriminating System." It has been used here in conjunction with a straightforward sandwich-man set-up, which incidentally illustrates at the same time the extremely high concealment-value of the oncoming aandwich-board.

To obtain the maximum payment for this joke the little men should be drawn several times over, being kept apart for as long as possible and only brought together for the grand finale when all other possible combinations have been exhausted.



A handy way to discriminate between little men indoors, and one which avoids tampering with either the features or the circumference of the face, is to use darkened or variegated versions of the drooping moustache. When appropriate, hair can be inked in or deleted and non-art spectacles added, to obtain still further variation.

A few of the possible permutations for faces treated in this manner are shown herewith. For the



complete list see the present writer's "The Drooping Moustache as a Stabilizing Factor in Power Politics," Pinhorn and Brazier; first published 1932.

### CROSSING THE TEETH

Ringing changes on the drooping moustache is not, however, recommended as a permanent expedient. Pictures exclusively filled with drooping moustaches have been found, in practice, to produce a dispiriting effect on the public, apart from the incongruity of such adornments on characters who have not yet attained full little-manhood. The non-artist who proposes to make a habit of drawing little men in bulk should learn, first, to draw little men with different expressions and, second, little men with different professions. The main obligatory non-art expressions for little men, women and children are as follows.



Figs. 1 to 4 should be thoroughly mastered before going on to fig. 5, in which normal eyebrows (like "C"s on their fronts) are introduced, and fig. 6 which involves the use of Greater Black-backed eyebrows and caterpillar-track-type teeth. Eyes, noses, hair and circumference remain constant throughout.

### THE LITTLE FOUR

The four professional non-art faces given below with a list of the main professions represented by each are the maximum needed by non-artists. The drooping moustache, if not already in use, can always replace the jaunty moustache (Fig. 2) in cases where the latter would plainly be striking the wrong note or proves to be beyond the powers of the non-artist.

(2)







Man of the World, Waiter, Colo Gangster, L Film Actor, etc. Alde

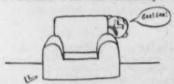
Retired Colonel, Farm Labourer, Ablerman, etc.

Frenchman, American, Conductor, Chergyman, Bearded Master Crimina Lady, etc. etc.

There is no need to bother your heads about little women and children in different walks of life, with the possible exception noted in Fig. 3 above. Nor should any effort be made, except under the guidance of a qualified non-art master, to combine the expressions with the professions. You need only attempt a rough sketch of an enraged alderman to discover why.

### A TREASURY OF NON-ART

Students should note that they now have a wide choice of non-art subject-matter, enabling many of the more advanced types of drawing to be successfully blended with some of the more elementary:



"And this is my husband's little den." (Traditional Old English Folk-joke)

And here is a more elaborate picture of a kind that enterprising students may care to tackle. The framed text (with deliberately small writing) is inserted to make it impossible for the editor to reduce the picture beyond a certain point:



At a recent lecture given by the author the above sketch was drawn on the blackboard, and members of

the audience were invited to try their hand at suggesting appropriate captions. The first suggestion, coming from a man prominent in public life, was: "Shortsighted Civil Defence Instructor (directing stirrup-pump team in friend's house), 'Now then, Number 2, there's no need to stand all that rigidly to attention' (Prompt collapse of team, except Number 2 who remains unmoved)," Although the ingenuity of this suggestion was freely admitted, the audience as a whole was not entirely satisfied. There was a general feeling that five was not the correct number for a stirrup-pump team, and several people loudly voiced the opinion that somebody ought to be holding a pump. After some discussion the joke which finally proved acceptable to the majority of those present was: "This is our little staff, Sir William; Hotchkiss, second from left, is our illusionist." Quite a number, however, preferred "shining light" to "illusionist." I wonder if any of you can think of anything better still?

### FOR THE NON-ART CONNOISSEUR

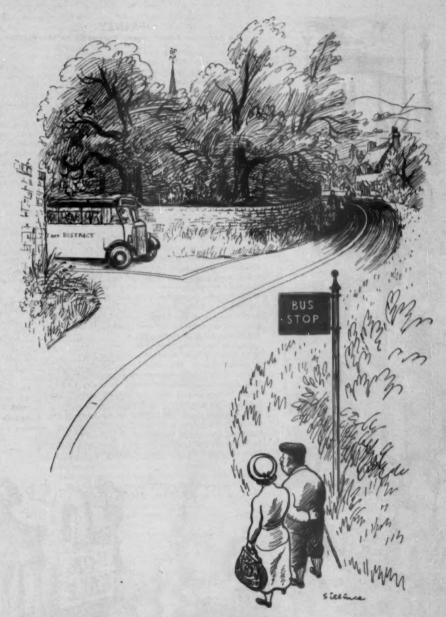
It is only right to let you know that there is an alternative approach to non-art which has gained some hold on the intellectual public during the last two decades. Its chief characteristic is that the non-artist, instead of restricting himself to subjects inside his limited range, restricts himself to subjects outside his limited range, his pictures normally being supplied with rather grown-up jokes like "Come on, tell us the one about Goldilocks and the three Father-Images." Provided the drawings are bad enough and the jokes sufficiently baffling, no one with taste and susceptibility will care to identify himself with the man-in-the-street in not thinking them funny.

### THE NEED FOR NON-VARIETY

I do not propose to say any more at the moment, except to remind you that in all approaches to non-art, as in all approaches to almost everything else except cooking and one-man-band playing, the secret of success is rigid specialization. I have dealt with some of the ways in which the humorous non-artist can get into print and, with a little extra effort, increase the size and sales-value of his work: but make no mistake, the ultimate plums are reserved for the man who associates himself as soon as he can with one particular line, be it simple or complex, solitary wasps or large conclaves of chatty Frenchmen, and who sticks to that line unwaveringly, come what may.



DANIEL PETTIWARD



"Well, if Mrs. Wackford's daughter's on it it's the 3 o'clock fifteen minutes late, and if old Mr. Wycheross is on it it's the 3.30 fifteen minutes early."

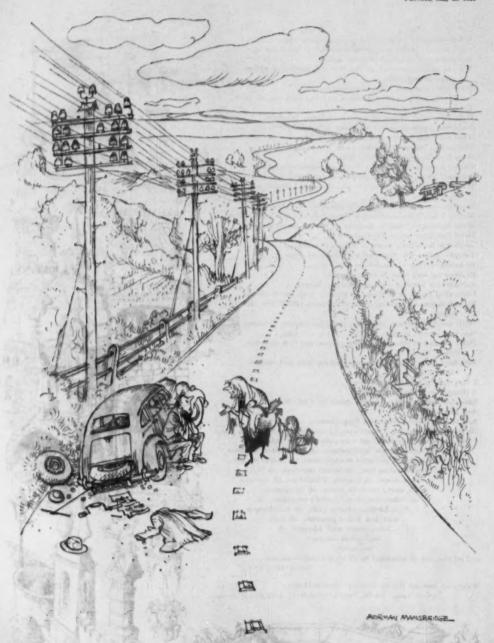
### FRENZY

### A Sensitive Estate Agent Succumbs to the Strain

WE recommend with confidence This perfect little period residence Adjoining the lovely Gloffy Vale, Offered for immediate sale; Possessing an elevated situation Most conveniently near to Croakley station With awe-inspiring panoramie views Across thirty counties to Ben Snews, First time in the market since 1503, A quite unprecedented opportunity; Once the Fitzblotton' hunting-box Where scious of an ancient line pursued the stag or fox; Visited by royalty and the great In Art and Letters and Affairs of State. A minute's walk from Wortleberry Down, Not more than half an hour from town, In excellent running order and superb repair, With lift, three escalators and baroque bath-chair. Fully restored by Ebenezer Tout, Central-heating now installed throughout; Historic geyser of great character and charm, Renaissance warming-pans, rococo gas-rings, fire-alarm By Flammaratti, of unique design, Inlaid with green Carrara marble and Venezuelan pine. Has eight reception salons and snug baronial hall With Turbet's incomparable murals on every wall; On first floor thirty slumber suites (some with four-poster beds), Above are fifteen lesser bedrooms and nine potting-sheds; Excellent domestic offices with spacious sinks Easily adaptable as skating rinks. Luxurious swimming pool (Italianate) With Gothic pillars (nineteenth century, late). A special feature: Romantic Ivory Tower-Would do as factory chimney or for water-power, Now residence of owls but would make airy larder -Where Nelson stayed before he sank the Great Armada. Delightful dungeons fit for mushroom-growing or for children's games, With headless ghost that answers to the name of James Would do for hatching revolutions or ditto eggs, Restoring quaint old customs or storing mead in kegs; Authentic Tudor cocktail-bar with darts and bagatelle Perfectly mitted for laboratory or garpbling hell.



Whole property ideal for school or country club or flats, For convent, nudist colony, reformatory or home for aged cats; Equipped with every ingenious device For the discouragement of death-watch beetles, scorpions, malaria and mice. Unrivalled climate; Ultra-Salubrio-Ozonic Sun-lounge with orchid annexe, a physical and mental tonic. Estate: 900,000 acres Stretching from Wigan pier to the Atlantic breakers, Including unspoilt marshes—quite delightfully wet (One rood and fifteen perches might be let). Enchanting old-world garden (only one square mile) With faithful replica of River Nile; Exotic rockery arranged by Coop regardless of expense Screened from palatial compost-heaps by Jutish wattle-fence; With terrace walks and Celtie gnomeries and wealth of 000000000000 Readily convertible to nesting-boxes or atomic piles; Mature blackberry shrubberies of great dignity laid out by Bate With Hebridean thistles growing in their natural state. Head Gardener (strict Druid-Jain), In charge for ninety years, is willing to remain. Temple of Bacchus inscribed with zodiacal signs. In lovely setting of dandelions and vines; Enchanting half-tiled Moorish garage Splendid for bomber station or balloon barrage; Unrivalled bomb-proof Norman piggery with sweet aroma From honeysuckle shading busts of Socrates, Old Moore, and Homer; With nearby hunting, shooting, netball, croquet, trouting, Snooker, soccer, rugger, skittles, ye-yo, scouting, Public houses of innumerable denominations, tied churches, Milk-bars, bores, bears, bee-clubs, sewing-bees and similar fiddlesticks. I very nearly forgot to mention A dangerous bridge (suspension) Ideal for garden parties, heroic deeds by Girl Guides And jolly suicides, And every accommodation for hippopotami— Oh maniacs, oh snobs, oh parvenus, oh ecosatric admirals, oh pious fishmongers, oh poetical air vice-marshals, oh debilitated wreatlers, oh illiterate bookmakers, oh half-witted workers in fretwork, oh zethetic stockbrokers, sh dumb waiters; oh linseed extractors, oh brutal pacifists, oh bulls in china shops, oh readers of bulletins, oh cowmen with warts on their noses, oh dissipated archdencons, oh red-nosed testotalists, oh high-kicking chorus-girls, oh middlemen with low blood-pressure, oh cute bassoonists with hiccups, oh flat-footed senitary engineers, and all the rost of mankind in all its detestable variety-COME BUY !!! WANTED: Service flat in Luxury Mental Home In exchange for St. Paul's Cathedral-with roomy dome.



"You've got a lacky face, dearie."

# AIR CHARIVARI

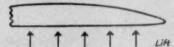




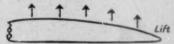
### AERODYNAMICALLY SPEAKING

READERS will fail to get the best out of the highly technical aeronautical pages that follow unless the principles of flight are clearly grasped. The viscosity of air, turbulence factors, and what is known as "skindrag" give a formula for wing-loading reliable only when  $\frac{n}{2}$  is greater than q, where v equals aspect-ratio plus a barometric constant, R is unknown, and q is taken as an approximation-

No. It is tempting to skate over early difficulties in this way and go straight to the half-dozen or so essential formulæ, but the reader will rightly demand that a firm foundation be laid. He will not be prepared to take even so elementary a conception as Bernoulli's Theorem for granted. We must begin at the beginning and state the first principle of aerodynamics, namely, that (I) all the arrows point in directions diametrically opposed to what the reader would expect. For instance, here is a typical wing, of medium aspect-ratio, gaining support (or "lift" as aerodynamists say) from the subjacent air:

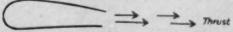


This is hopelessly wrong. What, in fact, happens is this:

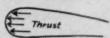


I see, now that I look closely at the diagrams, that the arrows are not so much diametrically opposed as uni-directional. We had better restate the first principle of aerodynamics as follows: (IA) all arrows point in the wrong direction OR are ludicrously misplaced with relation to the object they are supposed to be affecting.

Here is a jet-engine rushing through the air at something near sonic speed:

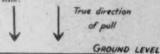


Wrong again. Jet-engines propel themselves by pressing against their own front-ends:



This may well be thought to be as far-fetched as the notion that you can rise in the air by putting the palms of your hands under your insteps and pulling, but it is aerodynamically correct and as good an example as you could want of arrows doing their work the hard way. When you know a little more about

thrust and drag you will realize that when you try to pull yourself up by your insteps what is actually happening is this:



(The feet and hands have been omitted, for greater clarity)

A man with very strong arms might easily disappear below ground, if he tried the trick on ploughland or

Thrust, however, is less important than lift, so we will leave jet-engines and go back to wings. Consider the flow of air round a plane surface inclined at y degrees. Now if, at right angles, P= 003 v2 (and nobody, I hope, in this day and age is going to dispute that) and given a design for the leading-edge such that g3-

go! When we remember that g stands for gravity. a force capable of exerting a pull on Mercury and Venus, we shall do well to approach the square of it with something akin to awe-or at least with circumspection. Formulæ with go in them are not to . be handled carelessly, nor should we lightly multiply and divide such titanic agents as though we had to do with a symbol representing the price of eggs or some such trumpery affair as the diameter of an outflow pipe. We ought to begin with balloons, which overcome gravity by easy stages, pouring sand on it whenever it seems to be getting the better of them.

This brings me to the second principle of aerodynamics, which states that (II) anything that is lighter than air goes up. Imagination boggles at the implications of this. If air was heavier than it is, as it might easily be-if it was as heavy as lead for instance-would coal-scuttles and rocks rise up in it? I cannot get a satisfactory answer to this question. And why, even as things are, do lighter-than-air receptacles mount upwards? After all, they still weigh something. What is gravity thinking about? Hydrogen weighs about '005 lb. per cubic foot, and a balloon they had at the Paris Exhibition of 1878 contained 886,000 cubic feet of the stuff. I make that 4,430 lb., or nearly a couple of tons, apart from the weight of the container, basket, ropes, sand, etc. Yet the thing went up, with fifty people clinging to it.

We can now state the third and fourth principles of aerodynamics: (III) gravity takes no notice of weight, provided the weight is enclosed in a balloon-shaped container and (IV) gravity should properly be called gravitation throughout.

For a more confusing and aimless treatment of the whole subject than has been possible here, see any standard work on Aerodynamics.



"We can't all be pilots,' they says. 'But you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that without your efforts they wouldn't get off the ground,' they says."

nir,

The Airborne Mariner MOVED by a strong and sudden power He stoppeth The shaft went round and round; his ears i I stopped my ears with cotton wool-It was an aweful sound; the earth. And soon I saw an open space Betwixt us and the ground. We flew, we soared, we all uprose, In the silence and loneliness And the wind went singing by; Like a ship upon an azure sea of the upper We sailed the silent sky. Above the earth, all, all alone, he imagineth himself a There was nor sound, nor stir; I thought I had been in a dream, spirit, Or a blessed spirit were. "I fear thee, Airborne Mariner!" Be calm, thou Wedding Guest: This body, in the Pilot's craft, Sped onward toward the west. Westward against the sun we flew, Through the floor of the clouds And the clouds were spread below; In wisped shapes all white they were. Like the mask of driven snow. Beneath, how far I cannot tell, I saw the mighty ocean; he seeth the And on a sudden I 'gan feel OCCULD. A sick and queasy motion. The spirits that dwell in the upper air inwardly troubled by the demons of Had held me in their power: Meseemed in that same strait I lay the aky. A sad and ghastly hour. Eftsoons, athwart the blue I spied

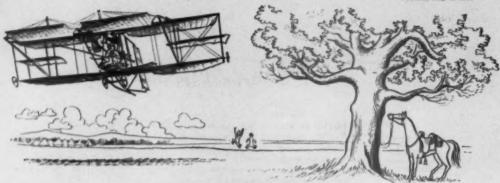
and anon is

With joy he espieth his home,

The margin of the sea; Beneath me lay, across the bay, O joy! mine own countree.

and the Pilot bringeth him safe to land.

We fell from high, adown the sky, Without or pain or loss. Is that my home, is that the 'drome, Is that the market cross? The Pilot wheeled, and on the field Brought down the Albatross. G. H. VAILINS



## THE LARGE BACK ROOM

Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough

LIFE is full of unexpected twists.
I should never have thought, for example, that a visit to the nerve centre of British aviation would leave my mind preoccupied with the crass disobligingness of Buffalo Bill Cody.

It is all to do with Cody's Tree. Cody's Tree, dead, bleached, railed-in, pumped full of prese vative by some arboreal taxidermist, is a Farnborough shrine. It stands at one end of the main, 2,400-yard runway, and any pilot who found he needed a yard or two more, and hit it, would be wise to slip away and

take poison before the lynching started. In the old, old days, when Farnborough Common was still a common, and members of the public were always available in strength to put a shoulder to any would-be flying-machine on the chance that it might take off and make a good tale for their grandchildren, Cody used to tether his kites to this tree. In fact, the War Office, intrigued in spite of itself by his plans for a kite which would carry a man, had appointed him Chief Kiting Instructor to H.M. Balloon School, recently arrived in those parts from adjacent Aldershot-eminence indeed for a Texas-born cowboy, actor and circus-performer. Later he had a hand in building the first powered airship, and became in effect the Establishment's first test pilot. He was a gallant character . . . But he was not, repeat not, W. F. Cody or Buffalo Bill. He was S. F. Cody and no relation.

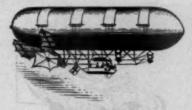
That is what upsets me. I came away, you see, with the impression that he was. And I don't suppose I am the only one. And now that I have learnt the discouraging truth I am filled with resentment against the other Cody-who should, of course, if there were such a thing as justice for journalists, have done just what his namesake did; it would have been so exactly in character for him, challenging the new thrills and perils of the air age just as he had challenged in his youth the Indian-ridden transcontinental wastes of the Pony Express age.

But he did nothing of the kind. I call it most inconsiderate.

Farnborough is huge, and on that score alone it is impossible to explore more than a corner or two of this biggest of all back-room Boffinlands. It has hundreds of acres of airfield and a surprising acreage of buildings, an advance on the Balloon Factory days of 1909, when a newly-appointed Supervisor found himself in charge of "one small machine shop, one airship shed, one shed." The airship shed, which once sheltered the Beta I, the most successful of the Factory's early dirigibles, still stands, a rusty hangar of corrugated iron, which at least has a certain symmetry to commend it: many of the buildings are curious architecturally, with lopsided humps and bulges, lofty eyeless walls, rambling afterthought annexes-this is because technical installations of immense and obscure complexity have been constructed first, and a purely utilitarian shell built round them later.

But there are other obstacles in the path of the investigator. One is that Farnborough deals in things to come, and thinks it best (not alone in this, perhaps?) that such things should remain shrouded. It has always been so. No doubt it seemed wise, during the South African war, to safeguard the production methods which caused output to reach the staggering figure of two balloons a month; just as, in 1906, it seemed wise to smuggle the new biplane off to Scotland's Blair





Atholl lest the unauthorized should witness its single brief bound into the air and subsequent disintegration; and so it now seems wise to conceal the exact number of staff employed at the Establishment (I am permitted to hint at several thousands) and to be politely reticent on many other topics of interest.

Another obstacle is the noise. I'll write that again. THE NOISE. I can only suppose that in time you get used to it. Spread about the numerous straggling buildings men are somehow managing to concentrate on calculations of nightmare intricacy (there is a mathematics section which does sums for everyone); others are measuring heat and light and sound and shock-waves with awful exactness; still more are applying themselves to matters of photo-elasticity and astro-navigation, of hydraulies and electronics, telemechanics and supersonics, or the combined aerodynamic, thermal and instrumentational problems of (dare It) G-d-d W-p-na: they

none of them seem to hear the roaring in their cars, and I envy them their detachment. But then, if you are helping to make a noise, however indirectly, you find it easier to put up with. They were just as deaf to distractions, I expect, when, in 1944, they unexpectedly took delivery of twelve crates of mixed hardware from Sweden, representing all that remained of a German V.2 exploded in the airthe first and least troublesome to reach this country. (It was reconstructed with interest, and later found to be a perfect match with the unexploded variety.)

But if I were doing that sort of work I should want a little quiet, I think. To my mind the scream of a Firefly warming up for an experimental catapult take-off (apparently in the next room), accompanied by a couple of homing Vampires which seem to clear the guttering by inches, makes even ordinary small talk difficult. That may, in fact, be how I was misled over Buffalo Bill. "Is it true to say," I would ask, pencil alertly poised, "that -1" But the first Vampire blots out the question. I put it again, but the second one blots out the answer. So I sheathe my pencil and allow myself to be led away into a wind-tunnel, hoping for a bit of peace and quiet.

But in vain. If you thought a wind-tunnel was a simple affair on



the lines of a large-scale drain-pipe you are, like me, mistaken. This one has roughly the same amount of mechanical equipment as Battersea Power Station, and a staff of seventy-odd to run it. It has noises of its own, louder and more continuous than those of mere aircraft: there are engines to drive the fan, compressors to raise the wind, a refrigerating-plant to cool it down after its heating journey at, perhaps, 600 m.p.h. As the young man with a high forehead hands me a pair of overshoes-a measure for gritexclusion; 600 m.p.h. grit is no joke -he is kind enough to try to tell me something. I don't hear it. He redoubles his efforts, his breath hot in my ear, and, as from far away, the message forms . . . "I'm afraid it's rather noisy .... I nod in courteous agreement, Later I manage to catch another phrase or two-"aileron instability," "uncontrollable spiral dive," "unexplained break-up"-and gather that he is



giving me some idea of matters investigated here.

I learnt afterwards that I was lucky not to have chosen a very heavy flying day. The weather had been fine for the past week or so, and the amount of air traffic was consequently only moderate-an aircraft up or down about every two minutes according to my own rough calculations. It is after a spell of bad weather that the sky over this bit of Hampshire is at its loudest and most crowded, because storm and tempest, though upsetting in the air, make no difference on the ground: in the drawing-offices and machine-shops, foundries and laboratories, operations go forward as usual. And when the rain is over and gone, the voice of the Boffin is heard on all sides, desiring that test pilots shall become airborne without delay, to check the latest theory on engine-torque, assess blast pressure in a rocket-assisted take-off, or tackle a tricky but exciting job for the Flutter and Vibration Division of the Structures Department.

Not, I must add for the comfort of the security-conscious, that the visitor from outside sees much of this going on. He must get what satisfaction he can, as I did, from the spectacle of three serious-looking men running out of a building and

exploding a small firework; they watched it perform a brief, spluttering, smoke-blue are and then, leaving it to expire on the ground, exchanged meaning looks and went back inside. Or he may form his own theories about what appears to be a quarter of an aere of old hay, spread thin and enclosed by tall wire-netting. "Oh," his guide will murmur evasively—"it's something they're doing in the Chemi. Lab."

Of course, some of the activities are more readily comprehensible by the lay mind. In a building known for no good reason as the Cathedral, pieces of aeroplane are "tested to destruction" (I had heard the phrase, was relieved to find that it didn't take place in the air). Gripped in the implacable jaws of a mammoth machine an entire main plane is subjected to increasing stresses, and its cracking point automatically recorded; as a result of such a test the failing load of a wing has been raised by as much as forty per cent. On the other side of the floor I climb a little movable flight of steps and find myself looking down on half a fuselage submerged in water; simplicity itself, this-is it watertight? then it's airtight. The Cathedral is a tangle of pulleys and chains, girders.



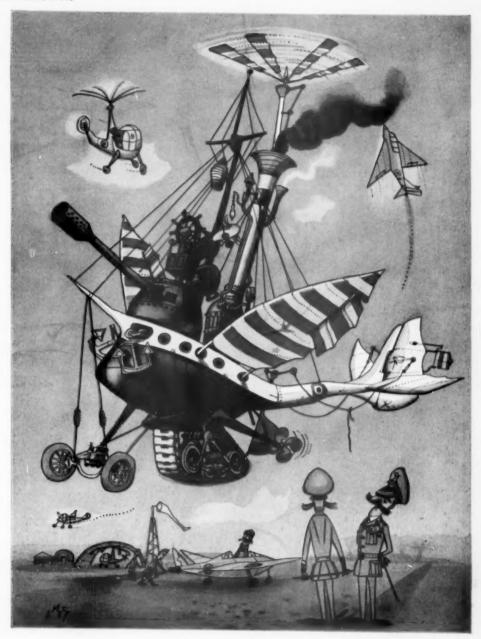
iron stairways; undercarriages, wheels, engine nacelles stand about, seized between the teeth of strange mechanisms. No one is in sight. Science is pursuing its silent course unaided.

Or consider the perfectly straightforward job of dropping a couple of jeeps from the air. Here. in the Parachutes Division of Aerodynamics, are a couple of jeeps which have had this experience. They don't look particularly impressed. The operation must be quite simple. All you have to make sure of is that all the parachutes open successfully (starting with the parachute that pulls out the parachute that pulls out the jeeps); that the lashings will hold the load steady in flight-and fall free at the exact moment required, instead of holding tight and pulling the floor out of the aircraft; that the self-inflating airbag buffers will, in fact, self-inflate; that the explosive charge freeing the load from its parachutes on landing doesn't explode two thousand feet in the air (which has happened; you must realize that experiments cost money) . . . Nothing to it, really, once you know

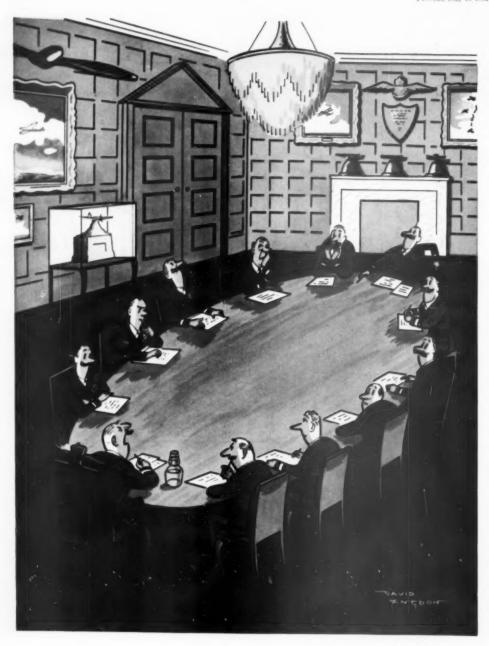
And what, as they say, of the future? Well, if I knew anything, I'd tell you; that, of course, is why no one told me. But when you consider that a leading Farnborough Boffin produced his paper, "An Aerodynamic Theory of Turbine Design" in 1926, or nearly twenty years before the aircraft gas-turbine became a reality, you can't help wondering what may be found tethered to Cody's Tree (no relation to Buffalo Bill) twenty years from now.

J. B. BOOTHBOYD





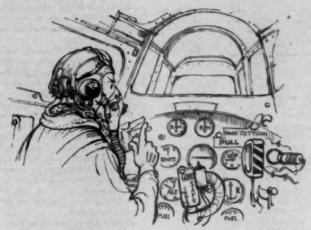
"I should snap it up, gentlemen! There are two other Services interested . . ."



"Very well then—the expression 'Good Show' is retained. Next, 'Wizard Prang.' Those in favour . . ."







# HIGH LEVEL CONVERSATIONS

AT THE CENTRAL FLYING SCHOOL

IT takes sixteen weeks for the R.A.F.'s Central Flying School to turn its scrupulously-seeded students into qualified instructors. For eight weeks they learn leadership, how to speak and instruct in the air, and such elementary background as Navigation, Meteorology, Engines, Instruments, Jet Handling and Aviation Medicine. Then, swapping their Proctors for Harvards or Meteor VIIs, they move on to the advanced stuff-still devoting alternate days to Navigation. Meteorology, Engines, etc.

Owing to prior engagements, I had only twenty-four hours in which to cover all this. Clearly I could not master the whole syllabus in that time, so I decided to concentrate on something simple. I would learn, I thought, to speak in the air.

Civilians who think that you can

pick up flying as you can eyeling may not understand the importance of speaking in the air. But one of the R.A.F. manuals puts it strongly: "The instructor should spare no effort to find out whether he can be heard," it says, "and to choose the most suitable words and phrases."

All good instruction starts at an altitude where errors will not lead to irreparable damage ("the increased complexity of modern aircraft . . . to-day requires that much of the instruction must be done on the ground"). I could, I thought, hear some elever airborne speaking without myself soaring into the blue ("pupil and instructor should be in reasonably warm and comfortable surroundings"). The Control Tower seemed a sensible starting-point.

The R.A.F. offered to demonstrate a rapid controlled jet descent.

A Meteor pilot twenty thousand feet up spoke to the Flying Control Officer through a loudspeaker. "Love Five," he said. "Testing."

The Flying Control Officer said "Descend now to ten thousand feet." "Roger," said the Meteor.

"Love Five," said the Flying Control Officer, "steer zero-one-zero, zero-one-zero," "Roger," said the Meteor.

"Love Five," said the Flying Control Officer, "you are now overhead. Turn port two-nine-five." "Roger," said the Meteor.

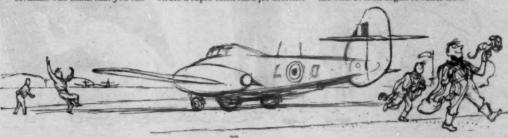
Love Five, rapid descent to two thousand feet." "Roger."

"I am bringing you in on onezero-zero." "Roger."

I felt certain that in the same circumstances I should be able to choose equally suitable words and phrases. But at twenty thousand might not find it so warm and comfortable. The Station Medical Officer offered to reproduce on me the effects of being four miles up. If he did it to someone else, I said, I should be able to see the effects better: so he collected four guineapigs from among his medical orderlies.

They all climbed into a small sealed chamber and donned flyinghelmets and oxygen-masks. The S.M.O. left his mask disconnected: he would demonstrate, he said, the effects of "anoxia," which could be quite amusing. "I got myself really blue in the face the other day," he said, "and my finger-nails were bright purple."

I watched through a glass spyhole while another doctor, grinning happily, turned on the taps that exhausted the air in the chamber. The guinea-pigs seemed quite unaffected by the decompression, but the S.M.O. soon began to suffer from



anoxia and smilingly went blue in the face.

"All your aeroplanes have plenty of oxygen in them?" I saked anxiously. They said yes, plenty.

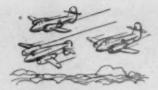
By the time lunch was over I was fully confident of being able to speak in the air, and they proposed that I should go up in a Meteor and try. It just happened that a formation of Meteors was about to take off with the object of practising close-formation flying with the middle aeroplane upsidedown. "But I'm afraid," they said, "you can't go in the middle one. The pilot wants someone to count."

"Count?" I said.

"Well, you see," they said, "a Meteor can only fly upside down for fifteen seconds and after that the engines cut out."

Snow swept across the runway. I sat in the after cockpit of the Meteor while the pilot told me exactly what to do if I had to "Of course I shall keep talking to you all the time," he soothed me. It occurred to me that in my clumsy efforts to get out of the cockpit I might disconnect the intercom. thing of my helmet, but it seemed churlish to raise the point.

The two jet-engines whined like dentists' drills, and we sauntered gently round the perimeter-track and formed up at the end of the runway. The air was full of voicesthe Control Tower's, the formation leader's, my pilot's. I badly wanted to say something myself, to show I could, but I could think of nothing to say.



Then with astonishing smoothness we rolled down the runway, our wingtip far closer to the leader's wing than I should have advised. I watched the leader with the eye of a hawk, determined that if we did touch him I should tell my pilot right away, so that he could open out a little.

Quite suddenly the runway dropped away below and the untidy bottoms of the clouds rushed down on us. The three Meteors moved as if riveted together with (very short) invisible ties. "All right?" asked my pilot over the intercom. Here at last was a chance to put my learning into practice. Speaking in the air for the first time, I said "Yes, thanks."

In a couple of minutes we were through the clouds, three stationary silver Meteors shining like flying saucers at eight thousand feet while the world went slipping by. The sky was immaculately blue. pilot edged in a little towards the leader, and the leader's voice came sharp over the air. "Our wingtip was getting in his jet exhaust," said my pilot apologetically.

The leader spoke again. "Red Formation, open-out!

We swung abruptly away to port. When next I looked at the

leader he was flying belly-upwards. We edged in as close as possible while his passenger counted out the fatal fifteen seconds.

Then-"Red Formation," came the leader's voice, "open-out!"

We turned away again and the leader made a half-roll to resume his normal attitude. We closed in once more. There was an oval hatchway in the leader's fuselage, just at the roundel, on which I could read stencilled Desert Equipment. To practice my speaking technique I decided to ask what it was. My inquiry should be modest, yet urbane and well-enunciated. But the leader was on the air before me and we were giving him elbow-room for another handstand.

Finally it was time to go home. "You want to make sure your ears aren't bunged up as we come down," my pilot said. "Yes," I said. It was my last airborne remark of the day; below the clouds the air was a little bumpy . .

Doubtless if I had raised the point someone at the School would have taught me how to get round that difficulty too. Here at nought feet, my parachute replaced by an armchair, my oxygen-mask by a cup of coffee, I can speak without restraint-speak of the skill and charm of those hand-picked pilots, of the merits of the Meteor VII as an air-yacht, of the joy of jet flight under a sky of uninterrupted blue. Possibly it all looks a bit sentimental reduced to cold print. You can, if you like, put it down to a mild degree of anoxia; but it's not that really. B. A. Young



# THE POWER BEHIND

WE of the war-time W.A.A.F. seldom pass a military police-woman or a rissole without a thought for those new to the Service, those in the new Service, the W.R.A.F. —our little sisters.

How are you making out, I wonder? How are you coping? How, as a matter of fact, and before we go any further, do you pronounce Wraf as opposed to Raf? One imagines, not without a certain relish, possible confusion.

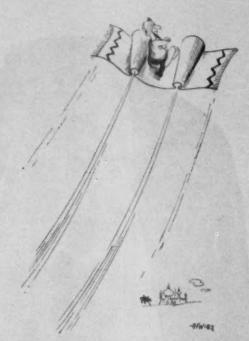
Some aspects of W.R.A.F. life will, I suppose, differ from those I knew, while others, without doubt, will remain unchanged. Saluting, of course, is still vital and it is necessary that its importance be realized. It does a recruit no good to climb over a gate and hide behind a hedge until the officer has passed.

We of the W.A.A.F. used to take pride in promoting goodwill between ourselves and the R.A.F., and we rely on you to maintain the same happy relationship. Do not, for instance, mutter continuously "Why should see have to do all the cleaning?" Remember that a woman's place is in the home, and that holds good in the W.R.A.F. as well. And when you are led on a P.T. gallop past the men's huts do not answer back.

Kit inspections are important. Try to borrow from people with the same name. When you repeat the formula "One on, ma'am, one at the laundry, two here," be careful that the official issue is not only three after all.

Domestic Evenings used to mean busy times for all of us. I wonder if the tradition is still upheld? Every Tuesday, the W.A.A.F officer said, we had to stay in and wash our smalls, and what jolly hours we spent in the ablutions! All rub-a-dub-dubbing merrily, small smalls, big smalls, issue smalls, smuggled smalls—even clean smalls, because we could not always arrange it as well as we were supposed to.

Then afterwards they organized lectures for us: "Sub-Glacial Ant



Life in the Upper Zambesi," "Lesser Known Aspects of Central Asian Temperance in the Middle Ages," etc.

You will find of course that there are occasions other than Domestic Evenings on which you are confined to camp—all of you, perhaps, or a metion, or a hut. Whatever you do, do not make a nuisance of yourself by trying to discover the reason.

An excellent move for a new recruit (and she cannot begin this too soon) is to try to catch a glimpse of her station commander some time and obviate the possibility of meeting him face to face without recognition. Not mutual recognition, of course; don't overdo it. And try to find out his name.

As regards procedure in the various types of work, I can write with a certain authority and experience only on Fighter Operations, Flying Control and the Cockhouse.

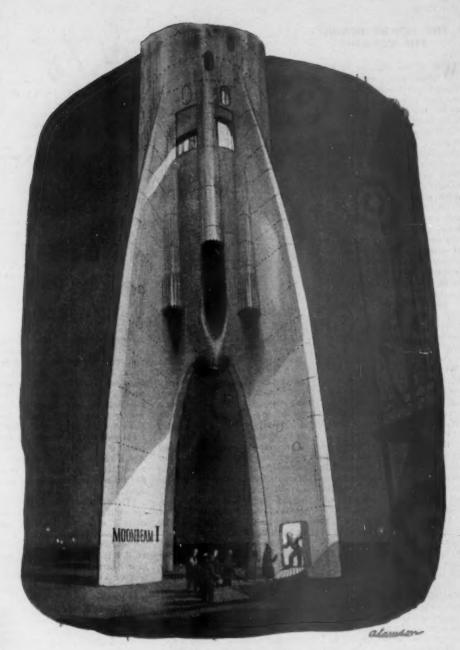
I do not wish to dwell on the Cookhouse, and will merely say that for spare-time voluntary work in this connection you will need rubber gloves and an ability to face facts.

Work in the Ops. Room is exciting. There you are at the nerve

centre of a Fighter Station, dreaming of the Battle of Britain while you make tea for the Controllerunless it's night duty, when he'll be asleep if he's finished the cross-Emptying ashtrays, disword. infecting telephones and head-sets, writing up the weather with a wet piece of chalk and marvelling as it turns white-all these are part and parcel of your new, thrilling life. And, if you should be manning a line when there is an inspection, try to find out what you are supposed to be doing.

Flying Control is much the same except that you see more of the aircraft, if only when they are landing or taking off, and it is important that you make certain which it is. If your job necessitates your listening in to the R.T., be tolerant and remember that the pilot doesn't always know that a girl is on the line.

Ah well—happy days! As the recruiting pamphlets so neatly say, there are many opportunities open to you in the W.R.A.F. which are denied you in civilian life. Yes, indeed. Manyorie Riddell.



" . . . and don't forget to beil your drinking-water . . . "

### INITIAL BRIEFING

THE inducting officer surveyed the new entry with a deceptively benevolent air. It was their first

day.

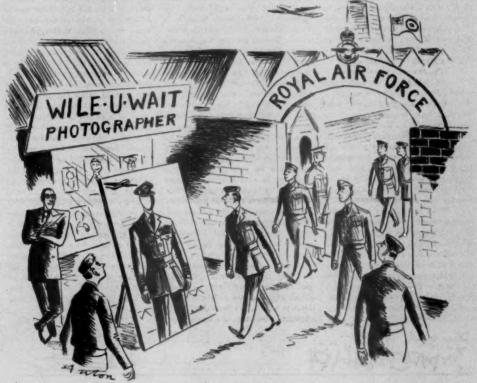
"Gentlemen," he said, "in pastgenerations recruits to this Service
have approached the mystery of
flight with no preconceived notions
beyond a healthy respect for the
laws of gravity; but you, reared in
an era of cinemas and television
and strip cartoons, are differently
situated. The remarks I am going to
make now are intended to correct,
in so far as that is possible, the false
conclusions about the Royal Air
Force which you may have reached
under the influences of these external
agencies.

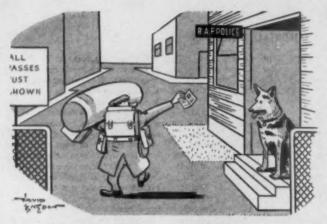
"To begin with, dismiss from your minds all that you may have

learned from fathers and elder brothers who had the privilege of serving in the two recent wars. I have already noticed symptoms of sinful pride in one of you, whose grandfather made the Brooklands circuit in a power-driven kitchen chair to which was attached a precarious assemblage of piano-wire and plywood. Here it cuts no ice to be a scion of the house of Montgolfier, or to be related by marriage to a second cousin of the Brothers Wright. The forces of gravity do not care whom you are descended from-they are solely concerned with where you are descending to, and how fast.

"During the wave of popularity enjoyed by our Service during the late war a good deal of publicity was given to aspects of the Royal Air Force which we do not wish to perpetuate. Those of you who, with the object of impressing your contemporaries, have broken the peaks of your caps, substituted club scarves for the more conventional collar and tie, and left undone various buttons of your uniforms, would do well to repair the damage before a less tolerant eye than mine lights upon it. To reinforce my plea, I need only point out that if, as some of you imagine, Fighter Command undoes one button, Bomber Command two, and the process is continued, an unairmanlike, not to say embarrassing, situation is likely to arise in Commands lower down the list.

"In connection with personal





standards, it is appropriate here to state that a long straggly monstache is not, repeat not, an essential appurtenance of the successful flier. Apart from lending the face the appearance of a carelessly-mown field, it is liable in emergency to become mixed with oxygen masks, microphones and parachute harness. Ferocity of mien, whatever it may have done for the Vikings, is of small account in air combat.

"It is time to pass on from the errors of the body to the sins of the mind. Mingling with you as I have done during the past twenty-four hours, I have heard several times the phrase 'Dawn Patrol.' This is, at best, a time-worn expression; and, in any case, we are not at war. I think, however, that our simple habit of rising at six A.M. and holding preliminary briefing at six forty-five will go far to compensate you for this disappointment.

"There are certain other misapprehensions rife amongst you which it is my clear duty to remove. Whatever may be the view of the strip cartoonists, interplanetary travel is a development that need not bother you for some little time to come. I don't want to discourage you, but the chances of conflict with the Martian Air Force are definitely small. In any case

it is unlikely that the personnel of the M.A.F. will be anthropoid characters in red tights, speaking a form of basic English and answering to such monosyllabic names as 'Garn,' 'Dern,' and 'Sok.'

"Again, you will rarely be entrusted with secret aircraft of incredible speed and fantastic armament. Even if you are, our security arrangements are designed to prevent the agents of a foreign power from alugging you with a spanner and taking the aircraft away from Should this improbable sequence of events occur, however, you will not leap into the nearest aircraft and set off in hot pursuit. You will remain on the ground and write a report of the incident on the appropriate form, and your escort will come for you in due course. Anyway, in real life, the nearest aircraft will almost certainly be one. which has been declared unserviceable, and a leap into the cockpit will land you upon the recumbent form of the Chief Technical Officer, a circumstance that will impair the harmony which must always exist between air and ground crews.

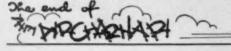
"The third favourite delusion cherished by gentlemen in your position is that you will be harried into the air against fearful odds by a lantern-jawed, iron-fisted, ruthless,

haggard C.O., who will turn out to be a jolly decent chap in the end. This is only a delusion as far as the 'fearful odds' are concerned. The various instructors who will be charged with the progressive stages of your training will indeed appear to you to be fiends in human form. Do not forget that they also have a point of view, and that in their eyes you are the most ham-fisted, cloth-headed gaggle of potential tram-drivers ever scraped from the bottom of the barrel by a desperate and short-sighted selection board. Haggard these gentlemen may well be, and no wonder. Ruthlem they will be, I assure you.

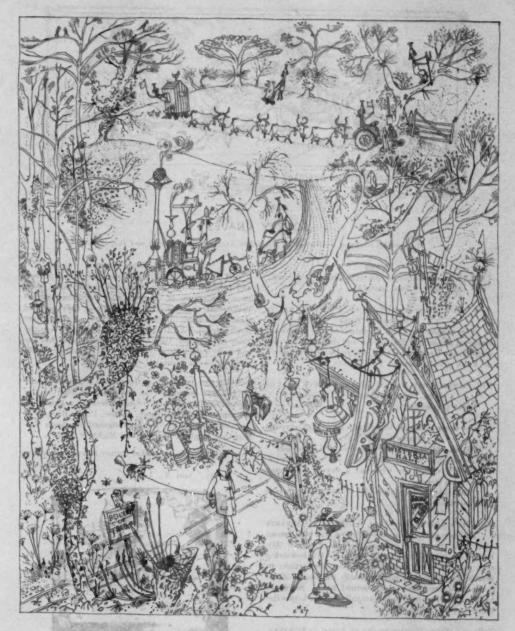
"Prominent among those traits which have been foisted upon us by well-meaning publicists is the habit of understatement. Avoid this, for it is liable to lead you astray. For example, if you are ever haled before your Commanding Officer for absence without leave, it does not help your case to admit that you have been away for a day or two when, in fact, you have been absent for six days, eleven hours and forty-two minutes by the guard-room clock. Equally, it is merely storing up sorrow for yourself to return on foot to the airfield you quitted in an expensive aeroplane and report that you have had a bit of a prang,' when you know full well that the largest surviving fragments of your machine have already been collected in a sack by the local rag-and-bone merchant.

"And now I see," said the inducting officer, "that you are finding the pangs of disillusion hard to bear. Comfort yourselves with the reflection that only the Air Force knows how the Air Force lives. The saga of your first sole, as related by you to your breathless kith and kin, is no concern of ours. We know what happened. But, for the sake of the man who will be doing my job in ten years' time, don't tell your story in front of your young nephews."

G. H. M. NICHOLS







"The railway, madam, is indeed closed, and its personnel absorbed in neighbouring industry."



## SCURVY KNAVES

A somewhat confused recollection of Historical Novels read far away and long ago

MAY the Summoner get thee, Saul Pentrepol," said Lady Alicia, irritably.

Tells HOW CENTAYNE LADVES FAYRE CAME TO PONTREBACT KEEP

The pillions creaked weightily as the cavalcade clattered across the drawbridge and deposited the fair cargo in the Great Courtyard, where Dame Grammercy de Vaux grimly awaited her "guests."

Tello APTER WHAT MANNER MERRY JENKYN PLAYED A JAPE UPON THE KING'S JESTER Right prankishly.

Tells OF SOME IN MASKS WHO HELD HIGH RENDERVOUS AT THE GIBBER'S FOOT

"Is all well that 'twere well were well, Bluechin!" said he who bore the air of leader, in a debauched voice. "Oui," replied one who had a flavour of foreign

parts in his speech.

"Methinks the Law sleepeth," said a stout personage with satisfaction.

Tells How the Snaker Fell Victim to His Snakes The dew glittered upon the fallow and blue smoke rose lastly from the cottage roofs as Franklin Jay turned his mount into the forest ride. His bowstring sent many a good shaft between the tree trunks in search of game and he carolled lustily the Ballad of the Scneschal's Daughter. Life seemed good. Suddenly his fine brow furrowed as he saw riding towards him the Knight of the Black Vigor.

Tells OF A WITTY RETORT THAT THE ABBOT OF PURNSEY MADE UPON A DUTCHMAN

"Retterdammerung," said the Abbot of Purnsey.

Tells OF WHAT BEFELL

In the tiltyard the sun ahone gaily upon pennon and pennant. The lists were full and from all sides came the stamp of chargers and the splintering of shafts and the clang of armourers as they patched their customers. Twenty-six Unknown Knights were challenging Lord Parkyn de Vaux, hoping to win the glove of the Lady Alicia. Little did they wot that she had been walled into the Buttery of Pontefract Castle and her gloves escheated to the Crown.

Tells OF THE SAD FATE OF HTHELWOLD THE TURNSPIT

He was recognized as the long-lost heir to the Honour of Purnsey and forced to become a knight of the Shire, perpetual host to the Prince-Bishop of Durham and leader of the vanguard whenever the Might of England charged the Might of France.

Tells How THE REBULS MET SHORT SHRIFT FROM MY

"Guilty," said My Lord.



Tells OF AN ENCOUNTER TWIKT BLUECHIN AND FRANKLIN JAY

"Twack!" went the cudgels.

"Have at each other," cried the bystanders.

"Olé," sang a jongleur.

"Can any wight guide my footsteps to the Court Leet?" asked a passing friar.

Tells OF THE PLIGHT OF SAUL PENTREPOL IN THE

Now it happened that Alderman Fitzjoy and Alderman Brudge were in search of conies to refurbish the fur of their tippets when they spied a dolorous figure.

"Dost notice the fellow's plight, Master Cordwainer?" inquired the taller of the pair.

"Aye, that I do, Master Loriner," replied the shorter.

Tells IN WHAT WISE DAME GRAMMERCY DE VAUX EXECUTED THE MISSION

"Well done, headsman," cried the Chatelaine of Pontefract Castle.



Tells OF WHAT MAY PASS BETWEEN COCKCROW AND VESPERS

The Knight of the Black Vizor swung the hermit on to his saddlebow.

"I trow," said be.

"Istrow not," said the hermit.

Tells How ONE WHO WOULD NOT SING FOR HIS SUPPER WENT EMPTY TO BED

The scaling-ladders were in place and the siege went merrily forward, while seated before his silken pavilion the Earl of Rutland encouraged his serjeants by bidding the trumpeters how many a stirring blast.

"I vow," he muttered, "that the Lady Alicia shall be unwalled ere the sun has set beyond the battlements. Sing, minstrel."

"I have a cheum," said the minstrel.

"Then shall you go supperless to bed," said the Earl with a great bellow of mirth.



From the roof of the keep, Dame Grammercy hurled defiance at the skies. An immediate shower of rain cooled the boiling oil as it stood in great cauldrons upon the ramparts.

Tells Wherefore Bluechin Loosed an Arrow Secretly by Night

When the Knight of the Black Vizor spurred his horse into the inn yard, he took but smallish heed of a beggar who huddled by the door with downcast mien. Throwing the reins to one ostler, the stirrups to another and the saddle to a third, he drew his sword and, calling for the Host, bade him produce a wild boar's head served proper with parsiey and a stoup of mulled mullet unless he would be run through his vitals. At this brusquerie, the beggar lifted his head and, fitting an arrow to a bow he bore concealed beneath his gaberdine, sent the shaft flying into a pigeon which, falling, knocked the sword from the Knight's mailed flat.

"Thank ye, honest friend," said the landlord, ignorant of to whom he spoke.

EPILOGUE

"May the Torturer's Apprentice practise upon thee, Saul Pentrepol," said Lord Parkyn de Vaux, captiously. R. G. G. Prace



### TENNIS IN THE PARK

THERE's the sort that plays at tennis, and the sort that watches them play.

And where there's one there's the other, for the world was made that way;

Not that you'd call it watching, quite, it's more that we happen to be

A strolling along the cinder-path and a-thinking about our tea

And

Tennis, O tennis, the game of games and her own true followers we!

'Course, you don't want to look, not look, none of that standing about.

Enough idea of themselves already, or so we figure it out

As we fetch up sharp for a service; poor old Pie Face

Bit of a Jonah, though, that a us; funny, we always were,

Funny how-

O the flashing racket, bird of the summer air !

And another thing that's funny, how never a shot goes wrong

But we a-shuffling past outside could have told them all along:

Mind you, the net's the trouble, and not so much the height,

Not even the nets you see round here, a-ratcheted good and tight,

As the fact that-

O and the thrill and-

All right, all right, all right!

O and the thrill and the rapture of the moment rare and sweet

When the ball sails over the high wire-fence, bang at our very feet!

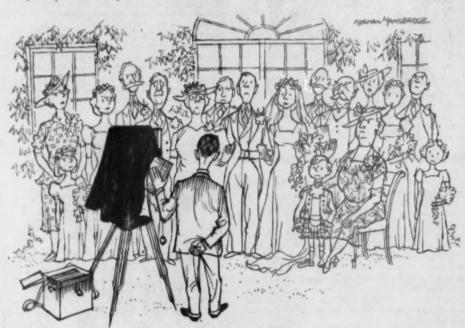
And we pick it up and we flex our arm just as the cricketers do,

And stepping back on the irises—there, and we've made it too!

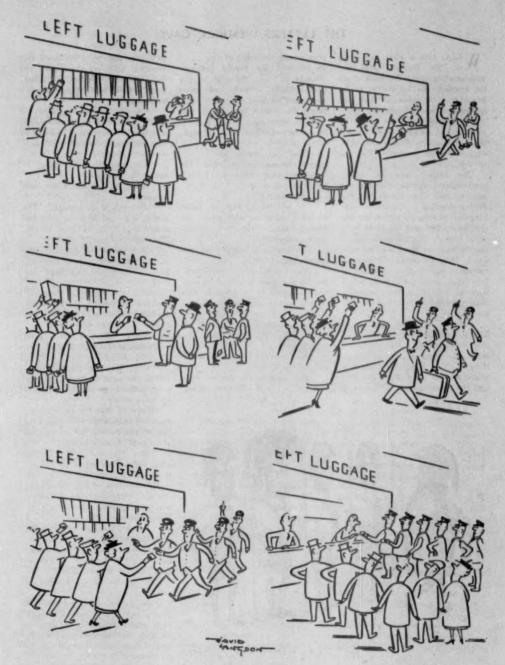
And then, with a nod and a casual smile to show it was nothing, we

Turn our steps to the cinder-path and our minds to home and tea.

ANDE



"Now how about one of you taking one with me in it?"



### THE LETTERS WEMNICK GAVE

"WELL, this is what they sent us, Mr. Burlap," said the assistant manager. The ends of his tie brushed the ink-bottle as he leaned over the manager's desk and spread out some duplicated type-written sheets. "Apart from the usual stills, of course—I've got those downstairs. This is what they suggest for the marquee. But the trouble is—"

Mr. Burlap bent his heavy shell-rimmed spectacles over the papers, and the others at the Friday-morning conference—the Stupendeon's regular signwriter, the commissionaire and the stout lady who bossed the cleaners—gazed apathetically at the top of his bald head. There was no sound for some moments apart from his heavy breathing and the crack of a hammer in the corridor outside, where the handy-man was tacking a carnet.

"Right," said Mr. Burlap at length, leaning back to pant and mop his forehead. "But you don't mean the marquee, you know, Henry. The marquee is up too where we put the title of the film and the stars' names. This stuff goes round the edge of the . . ." He cleared his throat self-consciously, ". . . the edge of the porte-cochère. Should look quite well—and we need something good there to attract people if this weather keeps up. 'Zing! Zing!'" he murmured reflectively. The sign-writer jumped.

"But the trouble is—" repeated the assistant manager. He looked extremely worried. "I don't think we can do it."

"Not do it?"

"I find that five of those movable letters we stick round the edge of the . . . the porte-cochère have disappeared."

The manager swept off his glasses and stared.

"Can't think how it happened, Mr. Burlap; just five of those that don't happen to be used in this week's announcement. Several copies of each, too. I think.—"

"Do you mean we need them for this?" Mr. Burlap tapped the

"Yes, I checked. It's impossible without them."

"But we must use this one with 'Zing! Zing!' in it—first-rate selling publicity, just what we need this weather: jolly 'em along, pack 'em in," said Mr. Burlap. "'Zing! Zing!"—I like that. Shows 'em it's a musical."

A look of uneasiness appeared on the face of the commissionaire, who for the last musical had had to vary his announcements with tunes on a tin whistle.

"Can't we do 'Zing! Zing!'?" asked Mr. Burlap.

"Well, no. N and Z are both missing."

"But this is an outrage." The manager looked accusingly at the stout lady. "Is this your people, Mrs. Gumm?"

"Not mine, Mr. Burlap. We never go near where them things are kept. Where are they kept, Mr. Criff?"

"No, it's not the cleaners," said the assistant manager to Mr. Burlap. "They're just lost. But I tell you what we might do, he added. "Wemnick is a good craftsman at this kind of stuff."

"Wemniek!"

"Give him the measurements and a specimen, he could turn out some perfectly good letters in wood by to-merrow."

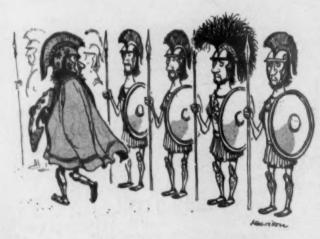
Wemnick was the handy-man, so-called because that, or something like it, was the way he pronounced the words "Wait a minute."

"But Wemnick," Mr. Burlap said. "Wemnick is just an odd-job man." He pointed through the wall in the direction of the hammering sound. "Cleaning the box-office windows, putting down carpets, things like that. He—"

"I assure you he's a real craftsman, Mr. Burlap," said Criff eagerly. "Don't you remember that model bee we had in the foyer for Honey-Bath-Bunch? He did that."

"Is B one of the letters we want!"

"No, I mean—No, anyway, I'm quite sure Wemnick can let us have some usable letters by to-morrow morning. Say the word and I'll take him off that carpet and tell him to get started."



"Haircut!"

Mr. Burlap fiddled with his glasses and looked dubious. "I don't know, it's irregular. But well, I suppose we have no choice. All right."

Criff made for the door and went out. The hammering stopped. Inside the manager's office the conference proceeded, and after a time Criff came back looking, as far as his face permitted it, relieved.

"He'll do it," he announced.
"He wasn't keen, because he always takes his wife out on Friday evening, but he'll do it. We can have the letters, three of each, to-morrow morning."

It was, in fact, twelve noon on Saturday when Wemnick's letters arrived. He stood by proudly while the assistant manager unwrapped the newspaper round his little

package.

"All right?" he beamed as the letters were revealed. He watched Criff's face. "Well, you don't look very pleased, I must say. Here I sweat half through the hottest night of the year—up at five I was too——"

"But Wemnick," said Criff, appalled, staring at the letters. There were five, three copies of each, neatly made of wood, smoothed, rounded and enamelled on one side, and with a set of small wire hooks firmly fixed in the other: a beautiful job, except that of the five, three—N, S and Z—were mirror-images of what they should have been.

"What's up?"

"Wemnick, three of these are the wrong way round."

"Wrong way round !"

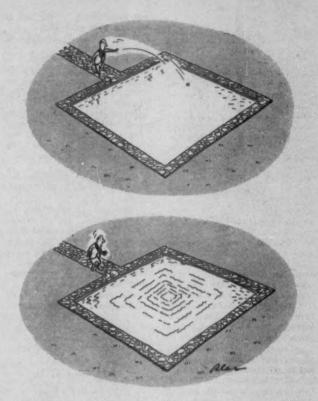
"Can't you see that?" Criff held up the N by its hooks.

"Wemni' - 's an N, ain't it? Ain't nothing else, is it?"

"But it ought to go the other way," said Criff.

"Wemni'—listen," said Wemnick, tapping Criff's chest. "How much edge-cation you think there is in a place like this? I'd never notice that myself, ain't nobody else'll notice it."

"But—" Criff picked up the Z and the S in his other hand and held the three out hopefully. "You could just do these again, couldn't you! By to-morrow?"



Wemnick was now quite angry.

"Give up my afternoon off for a
thing like that? J'realize how long
them things take? I tell you nobody
won't notice... What you get for
trying to do a bloke a favour," he
growled, slouching out of the door.

"Wemnick! No. Wemnick!"

It was no use. Criff took the letters in to the manager's office and said "Look at that."

"My God," said Mr. Burlap, when the facts had sunk in. "Well, we can't do 'Zing! Zing!', that's certain anyway. What can we do?"

After a concentrated pause Criff said "Wham! Wham!"

"What!"

"We might try 'Wham! Wham!"

"Nonsense, Henry. This is a massical, not a thickear meller... We have to resign ourselves to the fact: there just isn't anything

as—" (he coughed) "—dainty as 'Zing! Zing! We want something with woman appeal."

"General appeal."

"General, but particularly woman. All these suggestions—" Mr. Burlap stirred the foolscap sheets. "—all of them have 8 or N in them somewhere, even if not Z..."

Criff looked over his shoulder and pointed.

"No," Mr. Burlap said. "'And,' look. And 'super.' And another 'and,' 'Singing,' too. Even 'music.' Tune,'" he ended on a note of despair. He mopped his brow unhappily and suggested "Couldn't we use this week's line again? What's this week's line?"

"Out of the question, I'm afraid, Mr. Burlap," said Criff. He intoned: "'Thrill to the Drama of a Great Epic of the Ice.' It wouldn't



" Dash it!"

fit," he said, resuming his normal voice.

"But we must find something. Something strong," Mr. Burlap moaned, looking through the window at the empty, deep-blue sky.

"'Laughter," said Criff after a little, "Let's plug 'laughter.' And you know we don't need all these 'ands' anyway..."

Slowly, word by word, they began to produce something possible, and by the time they gloomly left at about half-past two the exhortation to go yound the edge of the porte-cochère was settled.

"It isn't good," Mr. Burlap said, "but it's the best we can do with our limited vooabulary. And it may pull in the people—you never know exactly what will hit them."

By the following Sunday they were quite convinced that they had made a good job of it after all. It had been a week of stupefying heat, and yet so far from losing business the Stupendeon was even a little up on average takings. On Sunday morning Mr. Burlap, driving his wife into town for lunch, stopped his car outside the cinema as he saw Wemnick polishing the glass of the box-office.

Wemnick, who had sulkily kept out of everybody's way all the week, stared suspiciously at the reflection of Mr. Burlap getting out of the car and mounting the half-dozen steps. "Ab. Wemnick!" Mr. Burlap

was very affable. "We had an excellent week after all."

"Did?" said Wennick sourly, half-turning round.

"I wanted to thank you—we did use two of the letters you made, though not the ones you—not the other three. Very nice job, Wemnick."

Wemnick now turned quite round, looking puzzled. "Wemni" —last week's picture was the one you wanted them letters for?" he said. "Where j'use them letters, then?"

"Round the porte cochère. Round there," said Mr. Burlap, pointing.

"Blow me, I never seen no letters up there," said Wemnick, much interested. He shuffled down the steps to see, with Mr. Burlap in pursuit, and stood looking up at the latest legend. "Words, cor... Never seen that. We came Friday night, like always, too."

"You didn't notice?"

"Cor, don't pay no regard to

that stuff. We go to the pictures," Wemnick explained. "Tell you the truth, Mr. Burlap, I can't never keep awake there either. Take meat, settle down, then right away—222, 222." He imitated a snore.

"Didn't your wife notice either?"

"Cor, no. She just likes comin' to the old Stupe, never get her to go anywhere else. People tell her there's a good picture on at the Regal, the Odeon-she can't be bothered. Oh, most people's like that. Always see the same crowd at the Stupe . . . Blow me, I wish I'da knew them letters was on view somewhere last week," said Wemnick regretfully. "Ain't none of mine here, is there? All new ones come in Friday, dint they? Ah . . . I'd like to shown a few people, though. Ten to one nobody seen 'em at all, stuck up there. Wemni' -what you stick 'em up there for, then?"

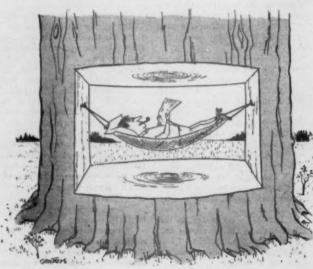
"Oh," said Mr. Burlap, turning sadly back to his car, "decoration." RICHARD MALLETT

# 6

### ACHIEVEMENT

"I DID forty-six in top up Hangman's Scar!" Did you! Or was it possibly the car!

J. R.



### SPECIAL EDITION

"HIPSWIVEL," whispered Lord

Sir John Hipswivel opened one eye. "What?"

"I believe me newspaper's written in Senegalese."

"Nonsense."

"It's certainly not English."

"Here, let me see." He looked.
"By Jove, yes, you're right."

"Is yours the same?"

"I don't know." He picked up his folded newspaper from the arm of the chair. "Is that Senegalese?" "No. It looks like Arabic."

"Curious."

"Very." He turned to a fat member. "Gussy."

Gussy looked cross. "Yes?"
"What language is your newspaper written in?"

"My dear chap-

"Are you sure!"

"Sure? What language do you think it's in? Greek?"

"Well, look at it. That's not

"Not English? Why no-no, it's not. Well, I'm-"

"Someone's slipped up," said Lord Chaffe ominously.

"The secretary," said Sir John with relish.

"He should be told."

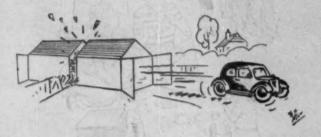
"Indeed he should."

They rose slowly, like two men about to do a pleasant duty, and as they went out they examined the



" ... Ab yes, and it was love at first sight."





paper lying over Colonel Bitterton's face. It was the Berlingske-Tidende.

"That settles it," snapped Sir John.

They accosted the secretary in his office. Sir John spoke first.

"Chauntrey. Have you looked at your paper to-day?"

Chauntrey frowned. "No. I haven't got to blackhall poor old Edwards again, have I?"

"I hope not. Where is your paper?"

"Oh, I don't know. Somewhere about. Under that cushion."

Lord Chaffe pulled it out and opened it. "Do you usually read Pravda!"

"Certainly not. Why?"

"Because this is a copy."

"It can't be."

"Look for yourself."

"Well, how very extraordinary!
I wonder how that happened."

"So do we. There doesn't seem to be an English paper in the club."

"But there must be, I haven't ordered any foreign ones. Let's look in the rack."

The rack was empty.

"I should think they'll all be out."

They crept around the lounge, examining each paper. General "Humpty" Giles snored over Izvestiya. Admiral Bownes had his hands folded peacefully on Le Figaro. Lord Goff seemed to be reading a copy of Kölnische Zeitung and the Right Honourable Jervice Monkcroft stared glassily at Il Giornale d'Italia.

"This is terrible," whispered Chauntrey as they crept out again. "If they ever find out there'll be the most ghastly upheaval. What shall I do?"

"Do? Get in touch with your source of supply, man," barked Sir John angrily.

Chauntrey looked up a number and dialled it. "Hallo. What? Yes, Bootes Club here. Bootes Club. Why have you sent us a mass of foreign papers to-day?" He paused. "Bootes Club, B-o-o-t-e-s, Bootes Club. Eh? What's that? No, of course we're not a foreign lauguages club. Never have been." Then, as he listened, his face whitened and he stared at his companions with despair in his eyes. He put the receiver down without uttering another word.

"What's wrong, Chauntrey!" asked Lord Chaffe.

"They've always thought we were some sort of foreign languages club," he whispered. "We've been getting them for the past fifteen years."



"There goes a car with exactly
the same number as ours."

# RED BLOBS ON THE MAP

More News from the Château Country

"YOU must have posted all the cards I meant to keep."

"You seem to have dozens there."

"They are nearly all of the same place. It is difficult to remember which château was which without a photograph."

"Oh, I don't know . . . .

"Well, for instance, Use was very like one of the others. I can't remember which. They were both that lovely honey colour."

"Oh, but I remember Ussé very well. A scorching day, and we found that little bistro, dim and cool as a dungeon, and we both drank a bottle of Vouvray straight off the ice. Wonderful..."

"Yes, but the château

"Oh, the château-well, wasn't it the one with a staircase specially constructed for horsemen horses included? Couldn't quite see the point . . ."

"No, that was Amboise. I remember distinctly. It was the day we thought we were too late for a decent lunch, and we had the best since 1938. There was that glorious thing, you can't have forgotten, called quicke Larraise....

"Ah yes. Mmm . . . that was a very subtle arrangement of ham and egg. And there was a chicken there too, from some celestial farmyard, with mushrooms. So that was Amboise. Well, as I was saying, Uses must have been that one with a moat."

"They've all had moats so

"Well, yes, but not such obvious

"I'm sure you're wrong. The one you are thinking of is Langeais.

Remember the note on the portcullis saying 'Guide is gone for only thirty minutes'?"

"Of course, and we found a pâtioserie aptly called A La Bonne Heure . . ."

"Where you sank five almondcream cakes and two enormous chocolate truffles, although you always tell everyone that you never cat sweets."

"When I said that, I was thinking of Mrs. Maggs' rock buns. Ouite a different thing."

"Perhaps you're right. But what about Ussé!"

"What about Useé? Oh. Was it the one we couldn't get into because Monsieur le Duc was in residence?"

"No, that was Luynes. I know, because I've got a postcard of it here, and I remember seeing the butter or someone shaking a cloth or something out of one of those alit windows."

"Curious thing for a butler to do."

"I expect he was a French butler."

"Very likely. You know, that struck me as a bit odd. A Due in residence at the château. I thought they all belonged to the Republic now, except the odd ones bought up by American Gadget Kings."

"One of them belongs to a Spanish grandee. At least I think that's what the man said."

"Which man!"

"That little man on the bus who kept calling the châteaux 'Inestimable pearls of Touraine."

"Good lord, did he really? Well, perhaps the inestimable pearl of the Spanish grandee is Ussé. Anyway, wa'll look for some more postcarda when we go through Tours to-morrow."

"Are we going through Tours to-morrow?"

"Yes, we must—to get to that red blob on the Michelin map which is worth a detour."

"Which red blob !"

"I can't remember the name of the place . . ."

"Is there a château there?"

"I don't know—but the speciality of the house is a Tournedos Louis XIV."

"Oh!"



"He only does it to start us all off."

### UNCLE PERCIVAL

I TOOK the lane to dodge the main traffic, but I hadn't gone far before I saw my mistake. The sleek quarters of a big saloon brought me up short. It was moving, but moving very slowly, and there were other cars in line ahead. The lane was tortuous and narrow; a good-sized pram coming the other way could have caused a complete hold-up. Passing was out of the question.

By this time other cars had fallen in behind. I thought at first it might be a funeral procession, but the hats in front were against this. They were restrained but not funereal. The effect was serious, almost intense. The reckless gaiety of conversation that characterizes the rear vehicles of a cortège was missing. With the experience I now have I could have recognized clothes and atmosphere instantly; but I was young then. Then I saw the long lines of cars moving downhill towards us. The thing was so unanswerable, and there were so many of us in the same boat, that I was conscious only of a speculative interest.

The lane turned again and hid the point of impact, but we kept on moving. Both lines of cars were being absorbed somewhere ahead. I followed the saloon's tail sharp left, and found another saloon moving in on my right. The gate-posts were of red brick. There was no alternative, and by this time I was curious. The buildings were yellow brick piped with red; there were gables and fire-escapes. Parking was automatic; I just stopped between one saloon and the next. The men were in dark suits and looked edgy and self-conscious under a forced jocularity. The women were anxious, with fiercely competitive hats. Girls in uniform were everywhere. They hugged their mothers with one eye on the hat. I turned back and locked the car. So far I had acted automatically, but now, at large upon the gravel in rather grubby tweeds, I hesitated.

She had ginger hair; any more sensitive institution would have allowed her a dispensation from wearing the school tie. She walked up to me without any hesitation and "Uncle Percival," more a statement than a question.

I said "Well, no, actually—"
but she hugged me bonily; she
smelt faintly of carbolic. She said,
in my ear, "I know. But you must,
please." She took me by the arm
and we drifted into the Gothic hall,
dark with the framed portraite of
Victorian divines. The staircase was
tightly wedged with hats ascending
and descending. My tweeds were
less visible in the press, but my
woven tie was a blemish I could not
hide. Also I auspected a streak of
dirt on my forehead since I had
blown out that jet.

The iron-grey hair was brushed back in beautiful order above the dominant nose, and the lips had the determined melancholy of the life-long teacher. The bell-like voice said "Ah, Miranda." Miranda said "Miss Mathers, my Uncle Percival." She spoke without a wobble. I whipped my eyes from the near trameful of whiskers and said



"Charteris" and bowed. We shook hands while I calculated furiously. "The bishop was a great-uncle of mine."

She said "Ah, a great name in the school. I did not know you had Charteris relations. Miranda."

Miranda said "I wasn't really sure it was the same, Miss Mathers." Only modesty, she made it clear, had in fact prevented her from raising the matter before.

Steely fingers on my forearm told me that the interview was at an end. I bowed, and a tremendous hat behind me said: "But Miss Mathers, what an improvement having the J.B.s in Wellington."

Miranda said "There," and indicated a door specially labelled for the occasion. "Your face," she added—"filthy." I went in. A small man in a blue suit peered into the dark glass over the basin, working in near-panic on a club tie. Miranda was right. My face was filthy, and my right hand carried a stench of petrol that I hoped had passed on by way of Miss Mathers to the tremendous hat.

He gave a final twist to the knot and a nervous giggle. My dirt and my episcopal relations gave me an overwhelming superiority. I looked pleasantly at myself in the glass and aid "Big improvement having the J.B.s in Wellington, isn't it?"

In the silence I did not turn round, but moved my eyes to watch him in the glass. He was staring at my back as if I had twitched a tail. "Oh, yes," he said. He made for the door, laughing with the high, thin note of approaching hysteria. "Yes, indeed." He squared his shoulders, assumed a smile which, even from behind, was ghastly and went out.

I got off the worst of the dirt at my leisure and rejoined Miranda. By now I was all set to enjoy myself, and Miranda was excellent company. We forced our way into a sea of hats for the kind of meal that is known, not without reason, as a buffet lunch. Miranda ate everything she or I was entitled to except one sandwish which I kept for appearances' sake.

I apologized pleasantly to my neighbours when I bumped into them or when they bumped into me,



" Don't look now, but I think we 're being followed."

and in the short intervals chatted urbanely on the transfer of the J.B.s into Wellington. I saw my blue-suited friend, and set off after him with the intention of seeking his views on the recent decision to move the S.C.s into Marlborough; but he showed an unexpected turn of speed and got away, though only at the expense of his trifle, which he was forced to jettison behind the bust of Florence Nightingale, whence it was eagerly redeemed by Miranda.

The gallery was breathless with heads, presumably of girls who, unlike Miranda, had no relations visiting them and could not therefore take a hand at the buffet. They did not move so much as their eyelids, staring down into the seething hall with a detached and malevolent interest. In all that late - nineteenth - century building they were the only genuine Gothic.

We put the trifle plate back on the marble pedestal and worked steadily towards the door. A child with the face of a blonde angel drifted alongside. She smiled at Miranda and gave me a quick upward flash of blue. She said "Beefy's got spots and been popped in the sicker." "Whacko," said Miranda. We drifted apart.

Back by my great-uncle's portrait I said "What next?"

"Oh, speeches and things. You needn't stay if you don't want to."

"No tea?"

"Nothing much. And Jennie

can get it from the kitchen. She's cracked on Cook." Jennie was evidently the blonde.

We walked to the car. "Tell me one thing, Miranda," I said. "Where is Uncle Percival?"

"Goodness knows. Probably killed himself on the road." She laughed merrily.

I said "I might have been for someone else."

"Not in that suit," said Miranda.
"I see. Well, I must go anyhow.
Thank you, Miranda."

Miranda said "Thank you."

The lane was clear now, and I had a lot of time to make up; but it was the other man who was driving too fast. The damage was not serious, though his saloon still had looks to spoil.

He was wearing a dark blue suit; but it was the ginger hair and club tie that clinched it.

I said "In a hurry?"

He said "I was, as a matter of fact."

"They're just starting the speeches."

"You've got away quick." There was a note of admiration in his voice.

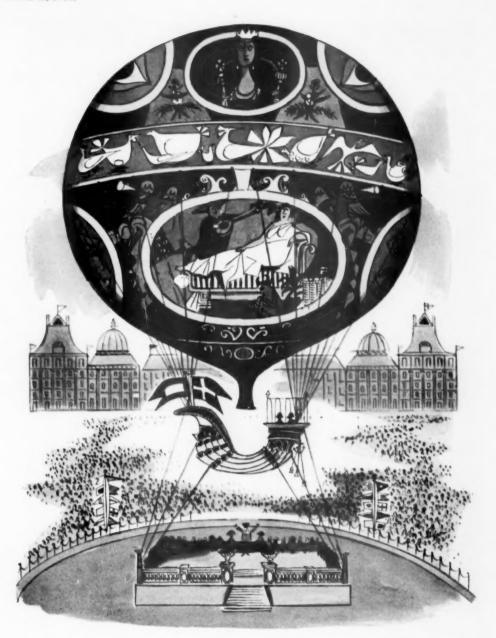
I said "Well, no damage. You'll just do it."

We got into our cars, backed clear and edged past each other. I called out "By the way, the J.B.s are in Wellington."

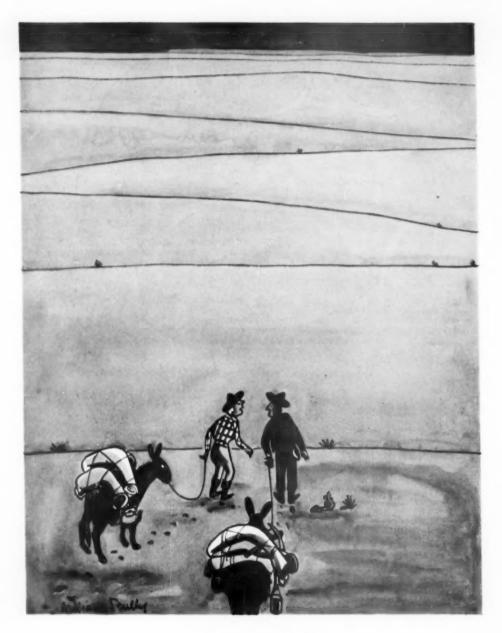
"Good show," shouted Uncle Percival. We accelerated as one.

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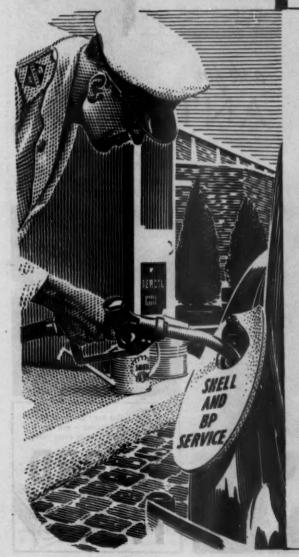
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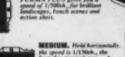
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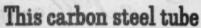


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of Schwan House, is not the only a diamond tiara and take a tumble one "just-out" present who can ware on skis with equal grace.

Some of us will be breathing a sigh of relief now that to its close draws High Summer. What a month it has been for all of us. Dutiful at Lord's, wise at the Horse Show, and surprised, once again, in the Stewards' Enclosure, at the mad rush of Henley, belying the leafy peacefulness of the River - Death in the Afternoon! Onelongs, now, to relax in the friendlier impromptu atmosphere of Goodwood and breathe the air fresher of the sea, at Cowes. Yet how English it all is, how English

#### Deb's Diary

we all are.

I arrived bright and early at the opening of the Schwep-erelli show. Among men—yes, men—present were my friend Jock "Bingle "Bog-Boggs, and Tony Schwepp-Schwepping-ham, with whom I chatted.

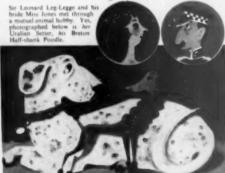
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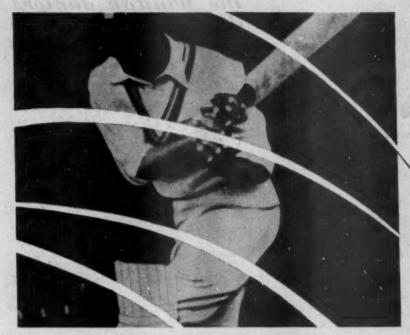


Miss Joan Crash, nineteenth cousin to the Earl of Schweppey, off to Schwischl



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Written by Stephen Potter, Drawn by Lewitt-Him



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"Bird, Henri. And I propose to catch myself a delicious drink." "Entendu. And after the banquet M'sieu is well?"

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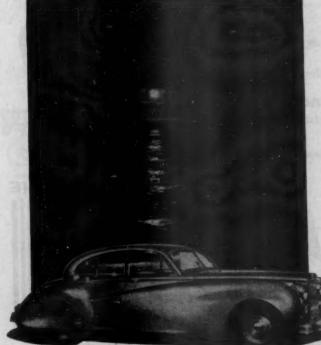
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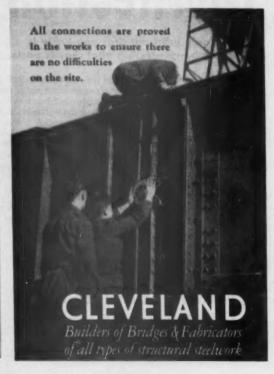


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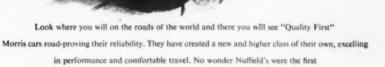


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